



OCTOBER • 1971

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS MAGAZINE

V★F★W

IN THIS ISSUE:

72nd V.F.W. NATIONAL CONVENTION





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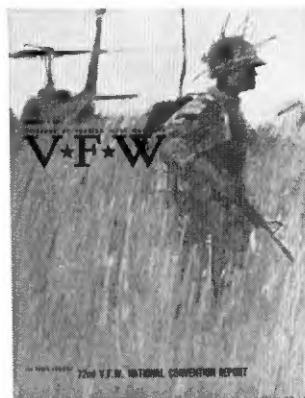
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### THE COVER

• Though the title of the painting is Landing Zone, it could just as well depict Americans pulling out of Vietnam, turning over the fighting to their allies in the ARVN. At the same time the V.F.W., as indicated in Commander-in-Chief Joseph L. Vicites' acceptance speech on page 18, is to be more actively involved with domestic issues. At the 72nd National Convention, this concern was reflected in other major addresses by national leaders in politics, communications and entertainment. Lt. John O. Wehrle was the artist and the painting is from the Army Historical Collection.



### V.F.W. OBJECTIVES

- TO INSURE THE NATIONAL SECURITY through maximum military strength.
- TO SPEED THE REHABILITATION of the nation's disabled and needy veterans.
- TO ASSIST THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS, and the dependents of disabled and needy veterans.
- TO PROMOTE AMERICANISM through education in patriotism and constructive service to the communities in which we live.

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**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS  
OF THE UNITED STATES**

V.F.W. MAGAZINE

# CAPITOL DIGEST

BY FRANCIS W. STOVER

Director, V.F.W. National Legislative Service



**CAN VETERANS BENEFITS ESCAPE FREEZE?** Hearings to be held on the VA pension program by the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee may be the tip-off on what the Administration's official position is going to be on bills to boost VA payments to 6 million veterans and their families. The wage-price freeze is certain to have an adverse effect on the 6 million veterans, their families, widows, orphans and dependent parents. Inflation has taken its toll of increases in compensation, DIC, pension and GI Bill rates. Congress was to have tackled these problems.

**VETERANS PREFERENCE ENDANGERED:** While President Nixon has been working diligently to find jobs and provide job training for returning veterans, his newly named Civil Service Commissioner, Mrs. Jayne Spain, has been quoted as saying she would scrap veterans preference in hiring men back from Vietnam. Mrs. Spain should realize that only Congress can do this since it is embodied in the Veterans Preference Act of 1944.

**SPECIAL CONSIDERATION FOR VETS:** The Emergency Employment Act of 1971 authorizes 160,000 jobs in needed state and local public services. One of its provisions is that special consideration be given Korean and Vietnam veterans.

**ADMINISTRATION-HÉBERT CONFRONTATION:** Treasury Secretary John B. Connally has ruled no military pay raises during the freeze, but as approved by House and Senate—they are to go into effect Oct. 1. It is part of the Draft Extension Bill. Rep. F. Edward Hébert (La.), House Armed Services Committee chairman, has said publicly they will take effect regardless. A confrontation between the Administration and one of the most powerful men in Congress, Hébert, is looming.

**PRESIDENT APPROVES EXTRA MONEY FOR VA HOSPITALS:** Congress added over \$200 million to the VA hospital and medical care budget for 1972. President Nixon promptly signed the bill, which is now P.L. 92-75. Congress made it clear there is to be no cut in VA hospital care. Some 85,500 beds must be maintained on an average daily basis with 97,500 beds in operation by the 165 VA hospitals. This is a setback for the Office of Management and Budget, which has been working overtime for years to reduce and eliminate veterans hospitals.

**TEAGUE COMMITTEE ON VA HOSPITALS:** Years ago Congress delegated responsibility for establishment, construction and renovation of VA hospitals to the Administration, subject to Presidential approval. The sorry record of the Office of Management and Budget, which would eventually eliminate VA hospitals, has forced Congress to take another look. A bill (H.R. 6568) strongly advocated by the V.F.W. would restore some of this power to Congress and provides that any major VA action on VA hospitals and medical facilities would require House Committee on Veterans Affairs approval.

**VIETNAM ELECTIONS AND WITHDRAWAL:** A threatened filibuster by Senate doves caused a delay in considering the draft extension bill before the August recess. This legislation (H.R. 6531) may be in other trouble than the military pay raise. Because Vietnam's President Thieu is the only candidate in the upcoming elections, Senate doves may add a provision to withdraw American troops from Indochina within nine months or set a certain date. On June 30 the draft law expired and the Army says it faces a shortage of manpower. Some observers, however, believe the doves have exhausted their ammunition and the draft extension will be okayed. ■



# 1971 V.F.W. DEPARTMENT COMMANDERS 1972

(Other pictures appeared in last issue.)



**John E. Collins**  
Colorado



**Raymond L. Whetzel**  
District of Columbia



**Brookes Decker**  
Florida



**Albert Y. U. Choy\***  
Hawaii



**Thomas J. Lynch**  
New Jersey



**Leonard G. Wiggins**  
New Mexico



**John M. York**  
New York



**Ernest S. Hubbard**  
North Carolina



**Herbert Sprenger**  
North Dakota



**Arthur Taber**  
Ohio



**Bill Robertson**  
Oklahoma



**Frank F. Friese**  
Oregon



**Robert D. Pogue**  
Pacific Areas



**Francis E. McCabe**  
Panama Canal Zone



**Rudolph E. Shearer**  
Pennsylvania



**Donald H. Sosville**  
Rhode Island



**J. Dan Truett, Jr.**  
South Carolina



**James Endsley**  
South Dakota



**Henry L. Black**  
Tennessee



**Mel Stanley**  
Texas



**Jimmy M. Sherwood**  
Utah



**Alan D. Arey**  
Vermont



**J. Robert Miller**  
Virginia



**Claude McCarthy**  
Washington



**David E. Malone**  
West Virginia



**Clarence Brunner**  
Wisconsin



**Ralph Bateman**  
Wyoming

\*Inadvertently the wrong photo was shown last month for the Department of Hawaii.

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A WINNER  
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ple, or return it and owe nothing. Or,  
it will be mine to keep FREE if I place  
an order.

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State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip No. \_\_\_\_\_

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Idea in  
Home  
Decor!



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\$1.98  
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### MAGIC CAPSULE IS SECRET OF LONG- LASTING FRAGRANCE

Felt pad in bottom of bowl is  
impregnated with a highly  
concentrated aromatic oil that  
supplies a delicate, pleasing  
aroma for months. Then may  
be renewed for many addi-  
tional months by using re-  
serve capsule within the floral  
arrangement. (Retailer retail for  
\$6 each or 3 for \$1.00. Offer  
source of big plus profits.)

### EXQUISITE FLORAL ARRANGEMENT

Colorful floral display of  
Empress Roses is beauti-  
ful almost beyond belief.  
Radiant colors — delftly  
shaded petal tones — ar-  
tistic leaf formations. Cust-  
omer has choice of six  
colors to complement any  
decor. Cerise Red — Rose  
Pink — Sunset Orange —  
Golden Yellow — Violet  
Blue — Gay Peach. Adds  
charm to any room.

### A FEW TYPICAL COMMENTS

"Showed my sample to 19 people and could have sold 41  
bowls." — W. T. Kernan, Fla. "Sold 3 dozen with just the  
sample in less than 2 hours." — Paul F. Stuber, Pa. "Re-  
ceived sample . . . took orders for 58. Next day took orders  
for 99 more . . . in my spare time." — Leonard Gardner,  
Ark. "I took my sample to work. The next 2 days I sold  
100 during my lunch hour and breaks (2 hours)." — Mike B.  
Henson, Mo. "I have been working part-time selling whole-  
sale to florists . . . in less than 3 hours I sold over nineteen  
dozen FLORAL BOWLS." — Robt. E. Bailey, Jr., New Jer.  
"We were out yesterday and sold all 3 dozen . . . one  
of the hottest numbers we ever handled." — Harry C. Fur-  
tich, So. Car.

## Will You Trade \$1.00 for \$3.00?

Yes, this is a TRIPLE-YOUR-MONEY-BACK  
guarantee! No, we're not crazy! We simply KNOW  
that putting a sample TRU-SCENT Decorator  
Floral Bowl into your hands can be like handing  
you a bankroll.

We want you to see the beauty and color, smell  
the pleasing fragrance . . . then show it to a few  
friends, neighbors or co-workers. We know you'll  
take orders as fast as you show your sample! (See  
comments above.) But if—for any reason—you aren't  
delighted, or amazed at the money you can make,  
simply return the sample and we'll send you, not  
\$1.00, but \$3.00 for your time and trouble!

### AN IMPULSE SELLER — FEW CAN RESIST

The exquisite beauty, color and magnetic charm of  
the fantastic FLORAL BOWL captures instant at-  
tention wherever shown . . . entices the beholder to  
lift the lid and smell the life-like Empress Roses  
inside. The delicate, pleasing aroma refreshes the  
air . . . helps banish stale odors. You offer a choice  
of six radiant decorator colors to complement any  
decor . . . a glamorous added feature that wins the  
fancy and imagination of your prospects.

Ideal for use in living room, bedroom, kitchen, bath  
—on shelf, mantel or desk . . . even in offices and  
hospital sick rooms . . . the Decorator Bowl is as  
much at home in any setting as a bouquet of flowers  
or living plant. Yet it costs far less, and lasts for  
months, even years . . . showing off its colorful  
beauty. Many buyers want from one to six for  
themselves and as sure-to-please gifts for relatives  
or friends

### HUGE PROFITS

In spite of the low \$1.98 retail price, you make up  
to a whopping \$1.11 per bowl, or \$4.00 and more  
for each dozen you sell to stores for resale. Plenty  
of margin to sell through sub-agents, fund-raising  
groups or even enthusiastic customers who want to  
help you sell.

### PROVEN SALES PLANS

Few products have such a steady, year-round de-  
mand—a "hot" seller no matter what the season.  
We send you complete, proven Sales Plans and  
everything you need to flood your market and bring  
you a small fortune . . . even store display racks  
and a free "Circle of Roses" Demonstrator Kit.  
The surface is barely scratched . . . but act NOW  
for ground floor opportunities.

**UNIQUE PRODUCTS, Dept. R-4319**  
426 So. Clinton St., Chicago, Ill. 60607



New MOC officers for 1971-72 are (L-R): Jerry Blair, Supreme Jr. Vice Comdr.; Ran-  
dolph Lofgren, Supreme Comdr.; Owen Ball, Supreme Sr. Vice Comdr., and M. W. Welliver,  
Supreme Quartermaster Adjutant. (63)

# MOC Again Notes Record

FOR THE second straight year, a  
hospital record of over \$2 million  
was reported by the Military Order  
of the Cootie which held its 52nd  
Supreme Scratch in Dallas, Texas,  
prior to the 72nd annual V.F.W.  
National Convention.

During the past year, added  
emphasis was placed on the MOC  
hospital program including the  
naming of a chairman to coordi-  
nate blood donor activities.

The MOC reported over 300,000  
members in the V.F.W. Booster  
Program which surpasses the prior  
year's total.

Randolph M. Lofgren, Lake  
Elmo, Minn., was elected Supreme  
Commander. He succeeds Sam R.  
Fruttoso, Hamilton, Ohio.

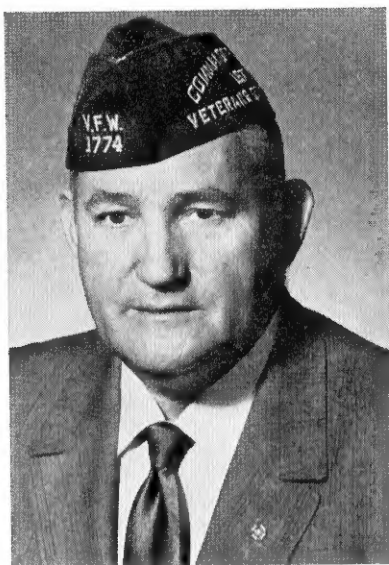
The new MOC leader set goals  
for the coming year of \$2 million  
for the hospital program, 350,000  
in the Booster program, \$25,000  
for the Christie J. Braun Memorial  
Scholarship program and 30,000  
in membership.

Other officers elected and ap-  
pointed Supreme were: Owen Ball,  
Winter Park, Fla., Senior Vice  
Commander; Jerry Blair, South  
Bend, Ind., Junior Vice Comman-  
der; M. W. Welliver, Tallmadge,  
Ohio, Quartermaster-Adjutant;  
Robert B. Sales, Louisville, Ky.,  
Judge Advocate & Bugler; Robert  
Small, Chicago, Ill., Chaplain; Wil-  
liam J. Rodriguez, Oklahoma City,  
Okla., Surgeon; Charles Hill, Great  
Falls, Mont., Chief of Staff; Mark  
Farrel, Easton, Pa., Provost Mar-

shal; Joseph Rollins, Chicago, Ill.,  
Historian; Curt Johnson, Milwau-  
kee, Wis., Jimmy Legs; Henry Du-  
charme, Newburgh, N.Y., Inspec-  
tor; George C. Beland, Lebanon,  
N.H., Hospital Commissioner;  
Mahlon Van Vleck, Jr., Blood  
Chairman; Henry Possy, Nash-  
ville, Tenn., Shirt Reader; Robert  
A. Dewey, Bemus Point, N.Y.,  
Editor; James Hanks, Brighton,  
Mich., Associate Editor; James  
Cummins, West Seneca, N.Y., As-  
sociate Editor; James Folgarelli,  
Detroit, Mich., Home Chairman;  
Richard Sebrell, Lansing, Mich.,  
Christmas Chairman; Joseph E.  
Dolan, Bethesda, Md., Tomb Trek  
Chairman; W. E. Bryce, Biloxi,  
Miss., V.F.W. Booster Chairman;  
David Wood, Hyattsville, Md.,  
VAWS Representative; Robert  
Cruzan, West Hyattsville, Md.,  
VAWS Deputy Representative;  
Robert Anderson, Girard, Ohio,  
Membership Director; Phil  
Hodges, Bronx, N.Y., Public Re-  
lations Director; Neil W. Koehler,  
Minneapolis, Minn., Supreme  
Scratch Chairman; Sam J. Grillo,  
Norwich, Conn., Life Membership  
Chairman; Tony Thomas, Minne-  
apolis, Minn., Parliamentarian;  
James N. McNapp, Canal Zone  
Representative; Louis Heltemes,  
Minneapolis, Minn., Personal Aide  
to Supreme Commander and Frank  
Brown, Sun Prairie, Wis., Elmer  
Brunner, Hamilton, Ohio, Tom  
Wilson, Terre Haute, Ind., Scholar-  
ship Committee members.



# Auxiliary Outlines Goals



## Rainwater Named To Labor Post

• H. R. RAINWATER, V.F.W. immediate Past Commander-in-Chief, has been named Director of the Veterans Employment Service (VES) in the Manpower Administration, Secretary of Labor J. D. Hodgson has announced.

He succeeds Edward L. Omohundro, who has been appointed in a dual capacity as Special Assistant to the Director of VES and as State Veterans Employment Representative in Arizona.

"Mr. Rainwater arrives at a time when the President's major initiative to help returning servicemen is moving into high gear," Hodgson said. "He brings to this important task the high degree of administrative skill and sensitivity to the problems of veterans this program must have."

As VES Director, Rainwater will head the U.S. Training and Employment Service unit which works to assure veterans maximum job opportunities.

## HOME SETS MEETING OCT. 23

• The annual meeting of the V.F.W. National Home will be held at 10 a.m., Oct. 23, at the National Home, Eaton Rapids, Mich., it has been announced.

MRS. FRANCES HARMON, Omaha, Nebr., the new Ladies Auxiliary National President urged members attending the 58th National Convention in Dallas, Texas, to "encourage and help the returning veteran who has problems of adjustment, education and employment."

Following her election Aug. 20 at the close of the six day Convention, Mrs. Harmon asked each of the Auxiliary's 6,700 local units to sponsor a project to honor or assist Vietnam veterans.

Mrs. Marianne Campbell, Cincinnati, Ohio, national president, American Women in Radio and Television, urged the 3,000 women attending the Convention to be "cre-active," combining creative planning with action in volunteer efforts. Mrs. Campbell received the Auxiliary's Distinguished Achievement award.

National President Mary Cottone, Olean, N.Y., presented \$10,000 grants each to Ala. Gov. George Wallace, for use in establishing the Lurleen B. Wallace Cancer Research center in Birmingham and to Texas Southwestern School of Medicine in Dallas for cancer research.

The Auxiliary reported its cancer aid and research program raised \$494,000 — \$50,000 more than its goal of \$1 per member based on the previous year's membership. Of this, \$353,310 was paid in grants to 1,441 Auxiliary members who are cancer patients and \$76,000 was contributed for cancer research.

Membership reached a new high of 462,000—a gain of 23,000.

The Auxiliary has increased 60,000 members over the past three years under the leadership of Mrs. Dorothy Hunsicker, Shoe-

makersville, Pa., Membership Director.

The Auxiliary's 1971 Unsung Heroine Award went to Miss Janet T. New, comptroller for the U.S. Army's 20th General Support Group near Seoul, Korea. A native of Korea, she was praised for 18 years of service as an Army civilian employee and for "building better relations among people of different lands."

The *Hancock County Courier*, New Cumberland, W. Va., and the *Panhandle V.F.W. Auxiliary*, Weirton, W. Va., won the Ernie Pyle Publicity Award honoring a newspaper for outstanding coverage of Auxiliary activities and the Auxiliary meriting the coverage.

The Convention adopted a complete revision of the organization's bylaws and voted in favor of a new uniform, a marine blue polyester knit dress and jacket with pillbox hat.

Other 1971-72 National Officers selected were Mrs. Lola Reid, South St. Paul, Minn., Senior Vice President; Mrs. Odie Lee Gossett, Monroe, La., Junior Vice President; Miss Erline Mayberry, Elkin, N.C., Secretary-Treasurer; Mrs. Betty Butler, Cranford, N.J., Chaplain; Mrs. Esther Kallstrom, Everett, Wash., Conductress; Mrs. Glenn Grossman, Chicago, Ill., Guard; Mrs. Mary Souders, Portland, Ore., Chief of Staff; Mrs. Odelle Hudson, Auburn, Ala., Patriotic Instructor; and Mrs. Angie Sparano, Omaha, Nebr., Historian.

Elected to two-year terms on the National Council of Administration were: Dist. 1, Mrs. Evelyn Riggs, South Portland, Me.; Dist. 3, Mrs. Rosemary Sommer, Keyport, N.J.; Dist. 5, Mrs. Violet Swartz, Mishawaka, Ind.; Dist. 7, Mrs. Vera Haley, Nashville, Tenn.; Dist. 9, Mrs. Vila Mae Sims, Grenada, Miss.; Dist. 11, Mrs. Evelyn Korth, West Bend, Wis.; Dist. 13, Mrs. Claire Mundt, Chadron, Nebr.; Dist. 15, Mrs. Johnnie Bobbitt, Hobbs, N.M.; Dist. 17, Mrs. Leah Johnson, Orem, Utah; Dist. A., Mrs. Audrey Copeland, West Mifflin, Pa.; Dist. B., Mrs. Norma Hayne, Chicago, Ill.; Dist. C., Mrs. Florence Taylor, Binghamton, N.Y.; Dist. E., Mrs. Barbara Bishop, Allen Park, Mich.; Dist. G., Mrs. Lee Capuzzo, San Fernando, Calif. ■



Commander-in-Chief H. R. Rainwater presented National Auxiliary President Mary Cottone with the V.F.W. Gold Medal Award of Merit.



*President Richard M. Nixon's appearance at the V.F.W. 72nd National Convention at the Arena of the Dallas Memorial Auditorium Aug. 19 was a high point in the sessions.*

*More than 10,000 delegates, their wives and families turned out to hear him. In his introductory remarks, Nixon had high praise for the V.F.W. as an organization that speaks out on the issues and Commander-in-Chief H. R. Rainwater as a leader who did not hesitate to express his opinion.*

*Following are excerpts from his speech.*

**O**N Sunday evening (Aug. 15) I outlined to the nation a bold economic policy designed to build a new prosperity for America—full employment without inflation and without war and with freedom and with opportunity.

It is most appropriate that my travels, across our beautiful country these past three days should culminate here before this great organization of American veterans. For here in your hearts and minds are the qualities America most needs in the stirring days ahead in which we have to meet the challenges of peace.

We need the very best of your soldier's spirit, your veteran's spirit to inspire the great battle for a lasting peace and a new prosperity in America.

It won't be easy—nothing worthwhile ever comes easy. It won't be easy, amid the distractions and temptations of the coming years, to make America remember that the strength that commands respect is the only foundation on which peace among nations can ever be built. The argument for weakness wears two masks, let us see through both:

To those who attack the necessity of strength with the claim that armaments cause conflict, we must answer that the reverse is true. It is conflicts of vital interest which cause nations to arm and nothing but patient, firm, hard-headed negotiations, such as we are now conducting in several important areas, can adjust these fundamental differences and so pave the way for a safe reduction of armaments.

To those who attack the morality of strength with claims that our defense establishment is "militarist" and evil, we must reply that it is war which is evil, and that the



**"Strength . . . Respect . . . Peace," Nixon asserts.**



**After addressing delegates, President Nixon meets well-wishers.**

vigilance which prevents war is honorable and good.

Let's say this—let this be well understood: We shall devote as large a proportion of our national resources as we safely can to the works of peace. All of us want to do that. We shall take vigorous steps to correct the occasional abuses which are bound to occur in the military as in any other human organization and we are doing that.

But on one point we shall never yield an inch—and that point is our deep pride in the armed forces of the United States and our enduring tribute of gratitude to the men who comprise them, professionals and citizen-soldiers alike.

It won't be easy, either, to follow through on the measures I announced Sunday night to generate 20 million new jobs in the next 10 years, to stop the rise in the cost of living and to protect our dollar against the attacks of international speculation. This hits very close to home.



**President Nixon at**

## The Challenges

And yet the willingness to make short-term sacrifices in the drive toward a long-term goal is the very essence of a disciplined fighting force, and is second nature to veterans like yourselves. I know, therefore, we can count on your wholehearted support in this great work of revitalizing America's economy and rekindling her competitive spirit.

It is essential that these two goals be mentioned together, for they are inseparable. The new prosperity we seek is in no sense a cushion for a self-indulgent old age of this Republic—rather it will serve as the launching pad for new greatness in America's third century.

It was our competitive spirit that made us a great nation, a strong nation, a rich nation in the first place. America needs a rebirth of that competitive spirit today.

This is the challenge of peace, and as I travel across this land I can feel that the American people are ready for it. I see a new confidence in this land, a new birth of faith in ourselves. I see a willingness to face reality, a revival of moral courage, a fresh determination to succeed.





...rives by helicopter.

## Of Peace

Nearly 70 years ago, when the organization that later became the V.F.W. was a brand-new group of young Spanish-American war veterans, an American philosopher wrestled with the meaning of war and the problems of peace. The great need, William James wrote, was to find what he called "the moral equivalent of war: something heroic that will speak to men as universally as war does, and yet will be as compatible with their spiritual selves as war (is) incompatible."

Four times since then, America has had to go to war—never for conquest or territory, but because other men did so. Four more times new thousands of veterans have joined the honored ranks of the V.F.W., and other thousands have sacrificed their lives for freedom. Now at last we find grounds to hope that the potential aggressors of this world will turn away from war, which costs so much and buys so little. Now at last we find grounds to hope for peace.

Yet peace itself, as James discerned, brings new challenges of its own. It poses the deep question whether a nation, without some external threat to unite and motivate



Commander-in-Chief Rainwater welcomes President Nixon



President Nixon waves goodbye to the delegates.

it, can find a higher inspiration to lift us all above the mire of softness, stagnation, division and decay. Through the turmoil of the Sixties, Americans struggled for the answer to that question, and now in the Seventies an answer begins to come clear.

James's heroic and universal ideal does exist, in a form both rich with age and new with promise. It goes by many names—The American Dream, the Spirit of '76—but essentially it is that unique mixture of liberty and order, justice and opportunity, competition and teamwork, knowledge and faith, which our forefathers envisioned two centuries ago and which, though not perfectly realized even today, has ennobled millions of Americans who have striven for it down the years.

The great challenge of peace is for each of us individually, and all of us as "one nation under God," to rededicate ourselves to this magnificent American dream. With this as our "moral equivalent of

war," we can move into a generation of peace and blaze the trail toward a new prosperity with freedom, justice and opportunity without war. With this new Spirit of '76 in our hearts, we can make the third American century our greatest century of all.

*Following are additional remarks President Nixon made as deviations from his prepared text at the conclusion of his speech:*

**"A**fter traveling over America, let me say first it is a beautiful country and second it took a great people to make this country when you think of what they did. They were strong competitors and let's be worthy of those great pioneers."

President Nixon then listed some of the problems facing the nation as "ending the war, winning the peace . . . and seeing that young Americans have a sense of purpose and destiny."

"There is an insidious line that runs through some commentators, that America does not need to be number one," he continued. "It matters very much for Americans to be the leader, to be number one. No other nation in the world is strong enough to negotiate for peace."

"The purpose of being number one is not to make others feel inferior but because once a people resign themselves to being second or third they cease to be a great people."

President Nixon said that history is filled with examples of nations that failed as leaders because they did not maintain their "drive and their vitality."

"Competition is what we believe in," he continued. "Let it not be said of this generation that we were the ones who said it really didn't matter."

He called for "a new birth of vitality . . . to be just as strong as we need to be, we can be. Gen. DeGaulle said that France was her true self when she was engaged in a great enterprise. It is the same with America. Peace is a great good, a great enterprise but we have to have a strong economy for without it we can't have a strong defense. The question for America is far more serious than in the dark days of Pearl Harbor: Do we have the drive, the urge to make this and keep this, the greatest country in the world?" ■



**M**ajor figures in American leadership—political, communications, the military, law enforcement and entertainment—attested to the prestige and vitality of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States by joining with the 35,000 to 40,000 members and their families at the 72nd National Convention in Dallas, Texas.

Among the speakers were President Nixon, John Wayne, Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird, Col. Wilson E. "Pat" Speir, director of the Texas Department of Public Safety; Sen. Henry M. Jackson (Wash.), VA Administrator Donald E. Johnson, Sen. Herman E. Talmadge (Ga.), Adm. John S. McCain, commander of U.S. forces in the Pacific; Charles A. King, vice president of Mutual Broadcasting System, Louisiana Gov. John J. McKeithen, and Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace.

For the more than 12,000 delegates who attended the sessions, however, there was more to their activities than hearing inspirational and informational messages. Much of their time was devoted to developing the mandates that form V.F.W. policies in the 1971-72 membership year.

Communist China, treatment of American servicemen, veterans benefits, the problems of the Vietnam veteran, such as rehabilitation and employment, and patriotism are all questions embodied in the nearly 175 resolutions adopted by the Convention. (See page 37)

Then, too, there were elections of officers for 1971-72, the more than six-hour long military parade, which gave the citizens of Dallas a chance to see the V.F.W. in all its strength, and the Pageant of Drums in the Cotton Bowl.

Prior to the opening of the Convention, there were various meetings with experts on a variety of subjects appearing before them. During the Convention week special sessions were held with Vietnam veterans in attendance to discuss means of recruiting even more into the V.F.W.

**Friday and Saturday, Aug. 13-14**  
**P**receding the actual start of the Convention, the annual National Rehabilitation Conference for V.F.W. Service Officers was held at the Statler Hilton Hotel. Knowledgeable speakers in the fields of veterans benefits, employment and other important areas addressed the group. (For details see page 50.)

**Sunday, Aug. 15**

**C**ommittees named to study resolutions to be acted upon by the Convention began their meetings. (See page 37 for resolutions adopted.)

At the National Security and Foreign Affairs Committee, Donald Easum, of the State Department, discussed Latin America and Dolf Droge, of the National Security Council, updated members on conditions in Vietnam.

T. Y. Chao, representing Nationalist China's government, warned the Committee that Red China's current policy of conciliation with the U.S. is a "trap."

"For over 21 years, the Chinese Communists have never ceased, even for a day, the export of revolution and violence," Chao said. "They constantly spread to all parts of the world propaganda designed to erode men's minds, to facilitate their ideological infiltration and political subversion. And their particular object of their at-

tention always has been the United States."

Chao said the Chinese Communists are not only seeking to damage American credibility and prestige but to "step up their infiltration and subversion activities, promote violence and unrest, build up pro-Mao ultra-leftists forces so as to destroy America from within."

While he can understand President Nixon's motives in planning to visit Red China, Chao said, "I can see only humiliation, and insult, blackmail and distortion in store for the President."

Admission of Communist China to the United Nations and diplomatic recognition by the U.S., Chao said, would only encourage Maoist aggression and lose this country the "confidence and trust of her Asian allies."

He later bestowed a Nationalist Chinese Order of the Cloud and Banner with special cordon to Commander-in-Chief H. R. Rain-

## Use Freedom Wisely V.F.W. Delegates Urged To Help Keep America Strong



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1. V.F.W. Color Guard ceremonies precede President Nixon's address to delegates at the 72nd National Convention in Dallas.
2. Past Commander-in-Chief Richard L. Roudebush, a former Indiana congressman, receives V.F.W. Space Award from Commander-in-Chief H. R. Rainwater.
3. Col. Jerome B. Coray, a USO official, is presented with the Al Jolson Award by Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Joseph Vicites.





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4. Col. Wilson Speir (C) with Commander-in-Chief Rainwater, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Vicites after receiving the J. Edgar Hoover Gold Medal Award.  
5. Commander-in-Chief Rainwater congratulates Past Commander-in-Chief Ray Gallagher on his V.F.W. Distinguished Service Medal.  
6. John Wayne, recipient of the Americanism Award, poses with Medal of Honor winner Raymond M. Clausen and Commander-in-Chief Rainwater.

water by order of Chiang Kai-shek, president of Nationalist China.

At the annual Memorial Service in the Arena of Dallas' Memorial Auditorium the Most Rev. William J. Moran, a retired brigadier general and auxiliary bishop of the Army's military ordinariate, said that freedom is a two-edged sword that can destroy the nation if not used wisely.

"The freedom we now claim has come to mean freedom from all unpleasantness, from hardship, from discipline, from the stern voice of duty, from the pain of self-sacrifice," Bishop Moran said. (For details see page 36.)

#### Monday, Aug. 16

Like the Memorial Service, the Joint Opening Session was held at the Arena, with Laird and Wayne the principal speakers. Dallas Mayor Wes Wise, and Texas Lt. Gov. Ben Barnes welcomed the V.F.W. and its Ladies Auxiliary to the city and state on Monday, Aug. 16.

Ted C. Connell, a Past Commander-in-Chief and 72nd National Convention Corporation President, called the session to order.

Laird told the delegates that there can be no negotiation with this nation's adversaries unless its military strength is maintained. (See page 24). Rainwater presented him with the Dwight David Eisenhower Distinguished Service Medal and Laird bestowed on the V.F.W. the Defense Department's Meritorious Service Award.

Wayne received the V.F.W.'s Americanism Award from Rainwater for his "dedication to the principles of patriotism and loyalty . . ." Accepting the award Wayne said that he was being presented with it as a "reminder of your membership no longer with us, of guys who put their love of country above life, of men who fought, suffered and died that we might get a second crack at making this country what it should be—God's guest house on earth."

Other Joint Opening Session speakers were Mrs. Mary Cottone, President, Ladies Auxiliary, who was awarded the V.F.W. Gold Medal of Merit; Joseph McNamara, Commander-in-Chief, United Spanish War Veterans, and Marcus Robertson, 1971 Voice of Democracy winner, who read his first-place script.

J. B. Koch, National Commander, Veterans of World War I, presented Rainwater with a citation for V.F.W. support of his organization's legislative goals.

Kansas Gov. Robert B. Docking addressed the Convention and Raymond M. Clausen, a Medal of Honor winner from Hammond, La., and Mrs. Rosemary Feyerhern, of San Jose, Calif., mother of a Medal of Honor winner, were introduced.

In the evening at the Statler Hilton Hotel Sen. Henry M. Jackson (Wash.), the principal speaker, warned that the Soviet Union is surpassing the U.S. in military power, expressed indignation at continuing criticism of this country at home and praised V.F.W. members for being what he called "the steadfast majority." (See page 25 for details.)

Rainwater presented Speir with the J. Edgar Hoover Gold Medal Award as this year's outstanding law enforcement officer.

Speir described Hoover as a "lawman's lawman who has inspired millions by his search for truth and justice."

"Orderly protest is all right," Speir said, "but murder, arson, treason under any name is a crime and crime should be dealt with accordingly."

The V.F.W., Speir said, "has set an example for all in the free world" and he singled out for special praise the organization's interest in law enforcement and its Drive to Survive campaign.

#### Tuesday, Aug. 17

Mayor Charles Stenvig, of Minneapolis, Minn., site of next year's National Convention, invited delegates to that city and made Rainwater an honorary citizen.

Rep. Olin E. Teague (Texas), chairman, House Veterans Affairs Committee, called for a fair and objective press that would give both sides of controversial issues. (See page 29 for details.)

Oliver E. Meadows, staff director of Teague's committee, was presented with a citation for his work on behalf of disabled vet-



erans and a V.F.W. Life Membership. Frank Brizzie, staff director of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, was introduced to the delegates.

Past Commander-in-Chief Richard L. Roudebush, deputy assistant director of the Veterans Administration and a former Congressman, received the V.F.W. Space Award for "his personal contributions to the advance of space technology and space exploration through his service as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Science and Astronautics."

Accepting the Award, Roudebush recalled that when the Russians orbited their Sputnik in 1957 he was in Munich after his election as Commander-in-Chief appearing on Radio Free Europe, but since then the United States has become the world leader in space exploration.

"To me the highlight of these moon landings has been the implantation or erection of the American Flag," he said.

Reviewing the events that led up to his introduction of legislation to place the Flag on the moon, an outgrowth of a V.F.W. resolution urging it, Roudebush said "in my opinion the sense of pride and accomplishment in what it demonstrates, the implantation and the erection of the American Flag was to me the proudest moment of all our space programs, to see our gallant astronauts place that Flag, stand back and give the military salute."

Donald E. Johnson, VA administrator, pledged that as long as he is in his present post no other agency will assume any of the VA's responsibilities. He also reviewed VA activities over the past year and outlined measures to be taken on behalf of veterans in the coming year. (See page 30 for details.)

Past Commander-in-Chief Raymond A. Gallagher received from Rainwater the V.F.W. Distinguished Service Medal.

Don S. Maupin, President of the National Home in Eaton Rapids, Mich., introduced the Home's Board of Trustees and several of its executives, some of the residents and Betty Davis, the 1971 Buddy Poppy Girl.

Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace, who received \$10,000 from the Ladies Auxiliary for the Lurleen Wallace Cancer Research Center named for his late wife, told the



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7. Louisiana Gov. McKeithen shakes hands with Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Vicites.
8. Betty Davis, 1971 Buddy Poppy Girl, speaks to delegates.
9. Gov. George C. Wallace, of Alabama, speaks.

delegates "a liberal minority wants us to 'drop out,' wants to instill a sense of disgust in the American people by criticism of our role in Vietnam and hopes to turn the entire country against those who believe in a strong defense."

Chairmen of four Convention committees made their reports to the delegates during the session. They were: Past Commander-in-Chief Byron Gentry, Convention Rules; Past Commander-in-Chief Andy Borg, By-Laws, Rules and Procedure and Ritual; Past Commander-in-Chief Clyde A. Lewis, Finance and Internal Organization, and Walter W. Thompson, General Resolutions.

The six-hour annual Military Parade by 20,000 marchers Tuesday night drew a record number of spectators, some 100,000 of them. (See page 32.)

**Wednesday, Aug. 18**

**T**his the third day of the National Convention was devoted to

American prisoners of war and men missing in action in Southeast Asia.

On behalf of those captives, Adm. John S. McCain Jr., commander of American forces in the Pacific, was presented with the V.F.W. Armed Forces Award by Rainwater. McCain's son is one of the prisoners.

"Our nation must not be turned aside from its proper course in Southeast Asia," McCain said. "The pressures of some public frustrations with the war must not, I repeat, must not, cause our people to abandon what we have helped to win for the free people of Southeast Asia. We must not initiate an abrupt and consequential pullback of U.S. forces in Vietnam." (See page 22 for details.)

Ten wives of American prisoners were introduced to the delegates. One of them, Mrs. Samuel R. Johnson, of Plano, Texas, and H. Ross Perot, Dallas philanthropist who has worked unceasingly for the



men's release, spoke briefly. Eddie Dunn, of Killeen, Texas, presented Mrs. Johnson with a check for \$1,000 to aid the prisoners. The money was raised by Killeen High School students.

Charles A. King, vice president of Mutual Broadcasting System, recipient of the V.F.W. Gold Medal of Merit, said "it is about time some of the editorial giants, some of the audio prophets of doom and many of the political pretenders to the throne stopped using the First Amendment to cover sins of omission and rather started to write and talk about the greatness of this nation." (See page 28.)

Three more chairmen of Convention committees reported. They were Past Commander-in-Chief Richard Homan, Americanism and Community Activities; Past Commander-in-Chief Leslie M. Fry, Rehabilitation and Welfare Service, and Past Commander-in-Chief Joseph A. Scerra, National Security and Foreign Affairs.

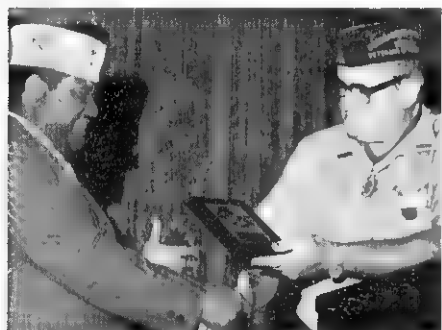
Wednesday night some 30,000 viewed the annual Pageant of Drums at the Cotton Bowl. (See page 26 for results.)

#### Thursday, Aug. 19

Several speakers addressed the delegates. Among them were Sen. Talmadge, ranking majority member of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee; Louisiana Gov. McKeithen, Clausen, the Medal of Honor winner; the Rev. Irving Uhler, past national chaplain of the Disabled American Veterans; Col. Jerome B. Coray, director of USO entertainment department, recipient of the Al Jolson Gold Medal Award, and Past Commander-in-Chief Byron Gentry, who read his poem, "GI Joe," the theme of the 1971-72 membership year.

Talmadge said "we need more loyal and patriotic Americans. By that I do not mean sunshine patriots or fair-weather friends. I

(Continued on page 49)



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10. John E. Travers, Pacific Areas Dept. Commander, receives membership award from Rainwater.

11. Oliver E. Meadows, Staff Director, House Veterans Committee, is presented Life Membership by Rainwater.

12. After being awarded Chinese medal, Rainwater poses with T. Y. Chao.

13. J. B. Koch, commander, World War I Veterans, awards Rainwater a citation for aid the V.F.W. has given WWI Veterans.

14. Joseph McNamara, commander, United Spanish War Veterans, and Rainwater exchange salutes. In center is Adjutant Gen. Julian Dickenson.

## 1971-72 NATIONAL OFFICERS



JOSEPH L. VICITES  
Commander-in-Chief



PATRICK E. CARR  
Senior Vice  
Commander-in-Chief



RAY R. SODEN  
Junior Vice  
Commander-in-Chief



JOHN STANG  
Judge Advocate  
General



DR. R. J. MEEHAN  
Surgeon General



REV. CHARLES H. CARPENTER  
National Chaplain



J. A. CHEATHAM  
Quartermaster General



JULIAN DICKENSON  
Adjutant General

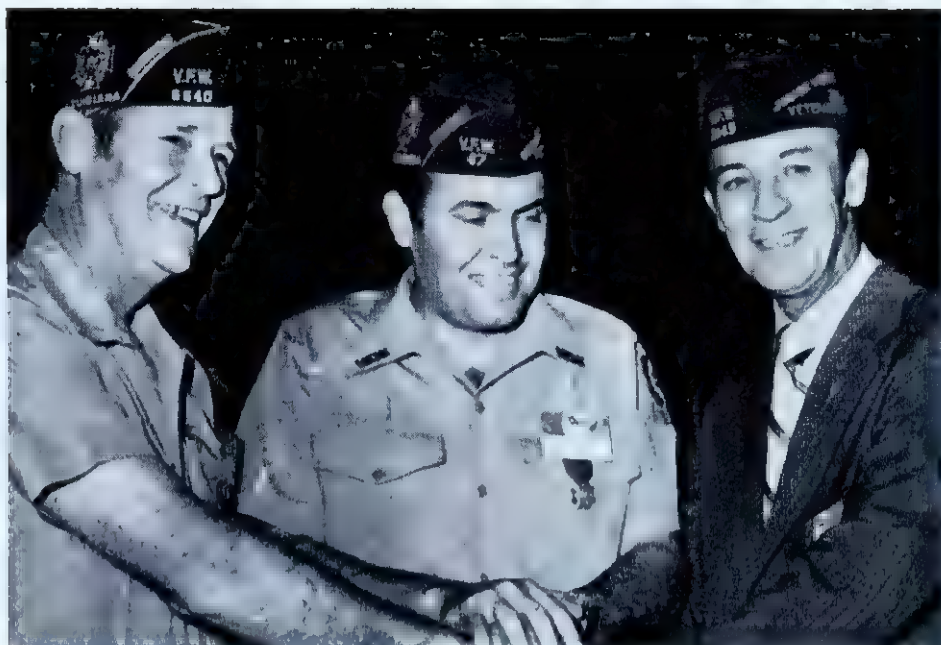


JOHN T. RADKO  
Chief of Staff



JOHN A. TYNAN  
Inspector General





Newly elected officers (above) are Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Pat Carr, Commander-in-Chief Joseph L. Vicites and Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Ray Soden.

Commander-in-Chief Joseph L. Vicites (right) drives home a point in his acceptance speech after his election.



## Goals For Tomorrow

*On Friday, Aug. 20, Joseph L. Vicites was elected and installed as Commander-in-Chief of the V.F.W. for 1971-72.*

*In his acceptance speech he praised the "superlative record" of immediate Past Commander-in-Chief H. R. Rainwater and his corps of officers.*

*Vicites then pledged to strive for even greater success during the coming year and to work for the betterment of veterans, their widows and orphans and their families. Following is the remainder of his talk.*

**I** believe implicitly that it is time for us to reappraise some of our priority goals—perhaps not the goals themselves but the techniques we employ in pursuing them.

For eight full years we have given our wholehearted support to first one President and then another in their efforts to bring the Vietnam war to a victorious close. We have committed ourselves and our resources, without reservation, to the support of the brave young men who fought and still fight that war to halt Communist aggression.

It was our duty to provide that support. The support of our fighting men, anywhere in the world, is our sacred trust. The security of our own nation, and assistance to our allies, is a responsibility we shall never shirk. But our active participation in the Vietnam war is slowly coming to a close. Our combat troops are coming home. Regardless of the personal opinions we may hold regarding it, or the manner in which it was conducted, it is being brought to an end.

We shall continue our efforts to win the release of every American prisoner of war in Southeast Asia. And we shall vigorously oppose any attempt on the part of any political candidate to make the fate of these heroic young men a pawn in the struggle for political power.

It is our primary duty now to direct our energies toward the solution of the internal problems it has left behind. We must direct our attention to the staggering task of picking up the pieces so that this nation under God may once again be whole. The fragments of our national pride lay everywhere about us. Each of those fragments must be welded together once again and bound by the lasting cement of loyalty to the America we love. We are faced by many divergent views: the dissident young; the disgruntled old; the disenchanted and the loyal; the anarchist and the patriot; the hawk and the dove.

Each of us must strive to reopen our lines of communication, and settle down in earnest to solve the problems we all face. If we in the V.F.W. are to contribute our fair share to the solution of these prob-





Immediately after their elections, V.F.W. officers (left) for 1971-72 are sworn in at the conclusion of the 72nd National Convention.

lems we must lay aside our role of "combat engineers" and devote more effort to bridging the gaps of peace which separate us as a people.

This does not mean that we shall yield to that which our experience and patriotism tell us is wrong. It does not mean that we shall weaken our principles, or lessen our commitment to true Americanism. We will never bow to the dogma of the dove, or subscribe to the philosophy of those who preach appeasement and "peace at any price."

It simply means that we will reopen our minds and take a long hard look at the changing times. It means that we must analyze and honestly explore the philosophy of the modern young. It means that we will strive to find a common meeting ground. For these young people are the future of this land.

Abraham Lincoln once said, "This nation cannot exist half slave and half free." Is it also true that it cannot survive as a great nation "half young and half old?" One thing is sure: We must find a reasonable way to bridge the gap between the two. I am determined that we in the Veterans of Foreign Wars shall make a positive effort to solve this national dilemma during the coming year.

We shall develop a program to find employment for every returning Vietnam veteran, in conjunction with the Department of Labor and the governments of every state. We shall call upon the representatives of private industry in every corner of America.

We shall also lend our collective support to the solution of the drug

problem among returning veterans. Historically, there has been very little permanent success in this field of rehabilitation. But we shall make every reasonable contribution to the effort.

We shall call upon the military to develop and establish a narcotics education program as a part of basic training—with periodic lectures and training films a mandatory requirement throughout every GI's service. The military should also provide qualified drug-abuse counselors for each unit of a specified size.

We can participate in the creation of a community-wide drug-abuse council which will serve as an exchange point for information among involved community agencies. Our Posts can prepare themselves to serve as information centers to refer any citizen, young or old, veteran or non-veteran, to the proper place for treatment.

As of the moment, we must return to the basic fundamentals of the Veterans of Foreign Wars: to serve the veteran who has borne the brunt of battle, his widow and orphan, and his family. We must redouble our efforts on every level in their behalf, through a revitalized and more effective legislative program.

I call upon each of you to read anew the purposes for which we were chartered by Congress. I assure you that I have already taken that step. I shall strive always to honor the high ideals and noble principles of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

I am determined to devote the major portion of my energy and

attention to the internal problems of America. It is time for us to roll up our sleeves and meet the challenges on the home front.

We shall voice our disapproval of the changing of Veterans Day and Memorial Day from days of national respect for the living and the dead who served this country to some meaningless three-day weekend. We shall continue our long campaign for a national cemetery for veterans in every state. Veterans benefits will be our battle cry. Unless we put up a more productive effort to preserve and liberalize those benefits, the Office of Management and Budget, together with the individuals and groups who have long opposed us, will eventually eliminate them. We shall call for a review of the disability compensation rates for the service disabled. Our objective should be to keep those rates equal at all times to the cost of living increase, with some additional adjustments for the more seriously disabled.

The same thing is true for veterans and survivors now living on non-service connected pensions.

Survivors' benefit rates for widows, children and parents of veterans must also be increased. As the cost of living mounts, so should these pension rates.

The G.I. Bill and other VA educational program rates are much too low. Thousands of our younger veterans still cannot afford the educational opportunities we profess to offer them. Rapidly escalating college and university costs impose a financial burden too great for them to bear.

*(Continued on page 54)*





Past Commander-in-Chief Joseph Scerra, John James, President, Dresser Industries; Alexander Cottone, Mrs. Mary Cottone, Auxiliary president, and Commander-in-Chief H. R. Rainwater. (358)



Past Commanders-in-Chief Ray Gallagher (L), Robert Hansen (2nd from R) and Tim Murphy (R) flank Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Joseph L. Vicites, Ray Soden, who was elected Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief for 1971-72, and Oliver E. Meadows, staff director, House Veterans Affairs Committee. (348)



Past Commander-in-Chief Paul Wolman, L. J. Andolsek, U.S. Civil Service Commission member, and Past Commander-in-Chief Leslie Fry. (351)



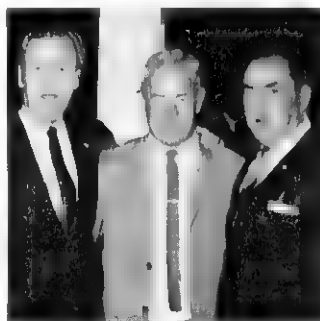
Chief of Staff William Hatfield, Commander-in-Chief H. R. Rainwater and Charles A. King, Mutual Broadcasting vice president, chat during banquet reception. (340)



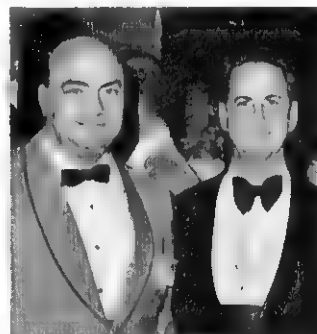
Rep. Olin Teague, Chairman, House Veterans Affairs Committee; Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Pat Carr, VA Administrator Don Johnson. (343)



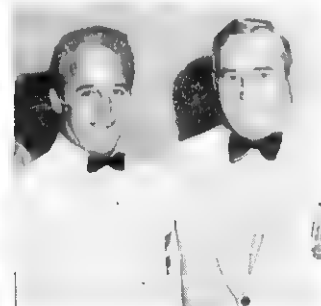
Past Commander-in-Chief Tim Murphy, Raymond Clausen, Medal of Honor winner, and Past Commander-in-Chief Eugene Carver. (354)



Past Commanders-in-Chief John Mahan, Charles Ralls and Byron Gentry. (352)



Past Commanders-in-Chief Joseph Lombardo and James Cothran. (360)



Past Commander-in-Chief Richard Homan, Commander-in-Chief H. R. Rainwater. (344)



John James, president, Dresser Industries; Lt. Gen. Joe Nickell, Kansas adjutant general; Brig. Gen. Ray B. Sitton, commander, 19th Air Division; Mrs. Sitton and T. Y. Chao, Nationalist Chinese leader. (301)



Quartermaster General J. A. Cheatham, Mrs. Cheatham, Rep. Ray Roberts (Texas), Mrs. Roberts, Adjutant General Julian Dickenson and Mrs. Dickenson. (339)





At left, Past Commander-in-Chief Cooper T. Holt, Mrs. Holt; H. L. Hunt, Texas oil billionaire, and Mrs. Hunt. (302). At right, Gov. Robert Docking, of Kansas, and Mrs. Erma Rainwater. (337)



At left, Commander-in-Chief H. R. Rainwater, Sen. Henry M. Jackson (Wash.), Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief and Mrs. Joseph L. Vicites. (476)



## V.F.W. Distinguished Guests Banquet



Col. Wilson E. Speir, Texas top law enforcement officer, and Quartermaster Gen. J. A. Cheatham. (341)



Past Commanders-in-Chief Clyde Lewis and Ted C. Connell. (356)



Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Patrick E. Carr greets Past Commander-in-Chief Andy Borg. (359B)



Past Commander-in-Chief Louis Feldmann, Marcus Robertson, Voice of Democracy winner. (345)



Past Commander-in-Chief Ray Brannaman, Mrs. Joy Jeffrey, wife of an American POW; Commander-in-Chief H. R. Rainwater and Mrs. Mary Cottone, Auxiliary President. (359A)



Fr. Robert McCoy, National Chaplain; Joseph McNamara, commander, United Spanish War Veterans, and Roy Smith, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army. (300)



*American prisoners of war and men missing in action in Southeast Asia were honored Wednesday, Aug. 18, at the V.F.W. National Convention.*

*On their behalf, Adm. John S. McCain, Jr., commander of U.S. forces in the Pacific, accepted the V.F.W. Armed Forces Award. Following is his speech.*

**W**e honor today our fellow countrymen. They number over 1,600 American servicemen. They are patriots. Each represents distinguished service to our country and in the cause of freedom.

# Honor Them As Heroes



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1. "They are patriots."—Adm. John S. McCain, Jr.
2. A \$1,000 check from Killeen (Texas) High School students was presented the POW wives by Eddie Dunn.
3. Mrs. Samuel R. Johnson, a wife of a POW, thanked the V.F.W. for its efforts to free the captives.
4. POW wives are escorted into the hall.
5. Mrs. Johnson with Commander-in-Chief H. R. Rainwater.
6. H. Ross Perot who has worked unceasing on behalf of the POWs.

They are fathers and husbands. They are sons. They are relatives and friends. The wives of some of these courageous men are with us today. Their presence is a tribute to their men and, in a very real sense, to all Americans held captive or missing in Southeast Asia.

May God grant each of us the strength to match our stalwart men.

I feel both personal humbleness and professional pride as the person selected to accept the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States dynamic symbol of support for our nation's prisoners of war and those missing in action in Indochina.

I consider the reason for this award presentation one of greatest importance. I know it is one which is receiving top priority by the President, Congress, the Departments of State and Defense and in the Pacific command as well.

The V.F.W. selection of these



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heroic men as "Man of the Year" focuses attention on this tragic problem.

I sincerely believe, in my area of professional competence and experience, that the American people must be given the facts. Only in this way will our people better understand why the prisoners of war and those missing in action affect our national interests in Southeast Asia.

I stand before you as a representative of those voiceless countrymen—how loud is their silence. Even though prisoners of war of the enemy, the honor and glory of their nation rests upon their shoulders, yet they cannot speak up. Nonetheless, their selfless and heroic example tells us not to lose our sense of perspective in the rhetorical shuffle and pretense





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that obscures America's national purpose and accomplishments in Vietnam.

These are, indeed, troubled times when every American needs more than ever to sail a steady course. Many are tired of strife and seek an easy way. My conviction, formed by four decades of military service in war and peace, is that there is no easy way.

As the commander-in-chief of

all United States Pacific forces, I have the responsibility for the defense of our national interests from Southeast Asia to Northeast Asia and in the entire Pacific. This is a vast area of the world and I constantly move about it to visit all the subordinate commands.

These Pacific forces of which I speak are not just military hardware. They are American men and women, fathers, sons, wives and husbands, flesh and blood, brains and brawn, and above all, spirit. I wish you could see them as I have. It would make you tremendously proud. Theirs is not the easy way. Yet they persevere.

Our nation must not be turned aside from its proper course in Southeast Asia. The pressures of some public frustrations with the war must not, I repeat, must not,

cause our people to abandon what we have helped to win for the free people of Southeast Asia. We must not initiate an abrupt, and consequential pullback of U.S. forces in Vietnam.

I am convinced the months immediately ahead are critical for the preservation of all that United States and Allied forces have achieved in Indochina. In the confusion of the public debate we must not lose sight of the fact we have performed the tasks delineated by every President since President Eisenhower first announced support of the Vietnamese government.

It is a fact that today South Vietnam has an excellent chance of survival. We have prevented external conquest and encouraged internal progress and regional co-operation in Southeast Asia.

The American forces in Vietnam have done the job. The war is winding down. More than a quarter-million men have come home. President Nixon's fulfilled pledges and his plan to further reduce the total U.S. troop commitment in South Vietnam are responsible, disciplined acts of statesmanship. They are a result of the reality that pacification and Vietnamization are succeeding. These policies are working. The South Vietnamese are developing the capability for their own defense.

In Vietnam, our country has not and does not have an objective of victory in the classic definition of resolving an armed conflict. We pledged to help the people of South Vietnam protect their freedom. We also pledged to help the South Vietnamese retain the right to decide their own future without outside coercion. We have done just that.

Combat action has declined for our forces. We are well on the way toward ending our ground combat role. I believe our objectives, in the long run, will prove successful.

Do not be deceived by reports of negative results in Vietnam. I would be less than frank if I told you everything is rosy, but the plain fact is that the enemy has not won on the battlefield! He has not and, I believe, cannot win through the ballot box!

We all know the price of liberty is high, that freedom does not

(Continued on page 58)





Defense Secretary Laird accepts the Eisenhower Distinguished Service Medal from Rainwater.

*At the Joint Opening Session of the V.F.W. National Convention Monday, Aug. 16, the Dwight David Eisenhower Distinguished Service Medal was presented to Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird. Following are excerpts from his speech.*

I am deeply conscious of the honor you bestow on me, knowing that this award has been made only once before—and, on that occasion, to our President and Commander-in-Chief. I regard it as a recognition of the devoted service of those who serve in the Department of Defense, and I accept it on their behalf.

This award is precious to me for two additional reasons—because it comes from the Veterans of Foreign Wars and because it bears the name of Dwight David Eisenhower.

As a member of the Congress, as Secretary of Defense and as a member of the V.F.W., I have had the opportunity to become thoroughly familiar with this organization. I know how much the V.F.W. does for our country and its people—to help maintain our security, to achieve a greater measure of justice and opportunity for veterans and their families, to relieve hu-

man distress and suffering.

It is no reproach to the V.F.W.—or any other veterans organization—to say that your first concern is for veterans and their families. This is no small group—28 million veterans and at least an equal number of dependents.



## Quest For Peace



Laird presents Rainwater with Defense Department award on behalf of V.F.W.

Certainly, no group has a better right to express their views on matters that can determine whether our nation will survive or perish than those who have been willing to risk their lives to insure its survival. No one has a better right to receive needed help from their fellow citizens and their government than those who helped to protect this land in times of deepest peril—and who, in so many cases, still bear the scars of conflict.

If the V.F.W.—or any other great veterans organization—is accused of being a special interest group, the response should be that it is indeed—and that its special interest is assuring that the United States continues to be a strong and free and just nation in a peaceful world. This sums up what the V.F.W. is all about.

I want to commend you particularly for your interest in the veterans of the Vietnam war. Two years ago, when I had the privilege of addressing your National Convention in Philadelphia, I recommended that you give special attention to the Vietnam veteran and his needs, that you welcome him into the V.F.W. and give him a responsible role in this organization.

I am happy to learn that 400,000 of your members today—close to one-fourth of your total membership—served in the armed forces during the Vietnam era. This fact makes the V.F.W. a group that has the right to speak in the name of a substantial number of Vietnam veterans. There aren't many that can make this claim.

As I remarked earlier, an award named after Dwight Eisenhower has special meaning for me. It was my good fortune to begin my service in Congress as Ike became our President. And, during those eight years of blessed peace which President Eisenhower brought to our nation, I had the opportunity to observe at close range the greatness of this man and to gain under-

*(Continued on page 41)*

*Featured speaker at the annual Distinguished Guests Banquet held Monday evening, Aug. 16, during the 1971 V.F.W. National Convention was Sen. Henry M. Jackson (Wash.). Following are excerpts from his speech.*

I can't remember a time when so many loud voices were competing with one another in downgrading the nation and all its works. What is utterly misleading is the picture they are giving of America. It's a picture I don't recognize—and I have been traveling in every section of this country and talking with Americans in every walk of life, with men and women who have backbones—and they are the backbone of all America.

If you believed the noisiest voices you would think the time had come to sell your worldly goods and climb the nearest hill to await the Last Judgment. In fashionable circles these days it is the "in thing" to run down the United States of America.

Well, there are some Americans who are discouraged, who have lost their way and their nerve, and who are in a mood to retreat—not just from Vietnam, but from responsibility, from reality, from the challenges of life on the frontiers of a nation and a world in change.

But there are a lot more Americans who think that the thing to do with a problem is to face it—not to throw up their hands or to throw in their towels. And I will put my chips on these Americans, the great steadfast majority.

This country has a host of problems and it is time to face them with confidence and common sense—and in good spirit.

The nation's economy is in poor health. It is running an inflationary fever of 6% or more per year, and there are no solid signs that the fever is subsiding. More than 5 million persons are out of work, and the rate of unemployment is steady at about 6% of the labor force. More than 25% of the nation's industrial capacity lies idle.

The United States is a rich country, but we are not rich enough to pay the price of idleness. Everything that needs doing—from building a good society at home to fostering the conditions of a stable peace in the world—everything worth doing as you know takes



If we are to create a decent environment for a growing population, and we must if America is not to join the ranks of the world's has-beens, we will have to make enormous investments over a long period in the building of new towns, the rebuilding of old ones, and in the related facilities that contribute to the quality of life—schools, hospitals, retirement centers, parks, urban and inter-urban transportation, and so on. And we would all much rather see the unemployed at work on such tasks—and the unemployed would rather be at work on such tasks—than standing in line for welfare and unemployment compensation.

If we are to make rapid and uninterrupted progress toward a society in which men and women of all ages, races, and creeds are treated with justice, feel secure in their homes and on their streets, look to the future with hope and confidence, and live lives of dignity and self-respect—and we must, for that, after all, is what this country is all about—our efforts will fall short unless there are jobs, good jobs, for all who want to work and who indeed are able to work.

*(Continued on page 62)*

# The Steadfast Majority

resources, the resources that only a growing, full employment economy can provide.

If we are to clean up our air and water, and we must, we will have to make heavy investments to overcome and repair the damage already done. In the process whole new industries will be created, offering large new opportunities for productive employment and, hardly less important, new outlets for the youthful idealism and love of country that have marked our American experience. The way to finance these new industries is out of the expanding output of a full employment economy.



# JUNIOR BANDS

1. Band of Gold, Dist. 9, Fla. ....	(88.05)	\$1,150
2. Lake Band, Post 2879, Milwaukee, Wis. ....	(86.05)	800
3. Elk's Youth Band, Post 1391, Racine, Wis. ....	(79.95)	500
4. Golden Eagle Band, Post 8627, Richardson, Texas ....	(71.45)	350

# JUNIOR DRUM & BUGLE CORPS

1. Vanguards, Post 6305, Campbell, Calif. ....	(89.95)	\$1,500
2. Troopers, Post 991, Casper, Wyo. ....	(89.00)	1,000
3. 27th Lancers, Post 6712, Revere, Mass. ....	(88.85)	800
4. Blue Rocks, Post 1952, Pennsfield, N.J. ....	(88.20)	700
5. Kingsmen, Post 3173, Anaheim, Calif. ....	(87.75)	600
6. Argonne Rebels, Post 3111, Great Bend, Kans. ....	(87.35)	550
7. Garfield Cadets, Post 2867, Garfield, N.J. ....	(86.30)	500
8. Boston Crusaders, Post 8699, Mattapan, Mass. ....	(85.85)	450
9. First Federal Blue Stars, Post 1530, LaCrosse, Wis. ....	(85.25)	400
10. Madison Scouts, Post 1318, Madison, Wis. ....	(84.85)	350
11. St. Paul Scouts, Post 3877, St. Paul, Minn. ....	(77.50)	300
12. Belleville Black Knights, Post 8677, Fairview Heights, Ill. ....	(75.50)	300

# JUNIOR GIRLS' DRILL TEAM CLASS "A"

1. R-Lettes All Girls, Post 4948, Round Lake, Ill. ....	(90.60)	\$ 200
2. Coronets, Post 981, Arlington Heights, Ill. ....	(90.20)	150

3. S.J.A. Stepperettes, Post 9127, Des Moines, Iowa ....	(89.35)	100
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# JUNIOR GIRLS' DRILL TEAM CLASS "B"

1. Buccaneers, Post 1230, Sheboygan, Wis. ....	(91.95)	\$ 125
2. Silhouettes, Post 721, Waukesha, Wis. ....	(87.75)	75
3. Vet-Teens, Post 6498, Milwaukee, Wis. ....	(85.60)	50

# LADIES' DRILL TEAMS

1. Milwaukee (Wis.) County Council ....	(87.85)	\$ 200
2. Missouri Dept., St. Louis ....	(80.65)	150
3. Golding-Meadows, Dept of Texas, Amarillo ....	(74.70)	100

# JUNIOR RIFLE DRILL TEAMS

1. Golden Boots, Post 658, Macon, Ga. ....	(86.20)	\$ 175
2. Queens, Post 279, Long Beach, Calif. ....	(86.15)	125
3. Baker Victory Guys-N-Gals, Post 898, Lackawanna, N.Y. ....	(82.30)	100

# JUNIOR COLOR GUARDS

1. Troopers, Post 991, Casper, Wyo. ....	(93.10)	\$ 175
2. Highlanders, Post 1296, Bloomington, Minn. ....	(87.70)	125
3. Sky Ryders, Post 1361, Hutchinson, Kans. ....	(86.95)	75

# SENIOR LADIES' COLOR GUARD

1. Illini Patri-ettes, Post 2048, Elmhurst, Ill. ....	(81.45)	\$ 75
2. Milwaukee (Wis.) County Council ....	(80.45)	50

# SENIOR MEN'S COLOR GUARD

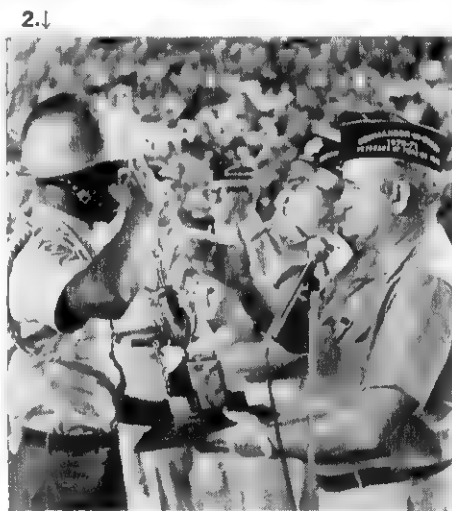
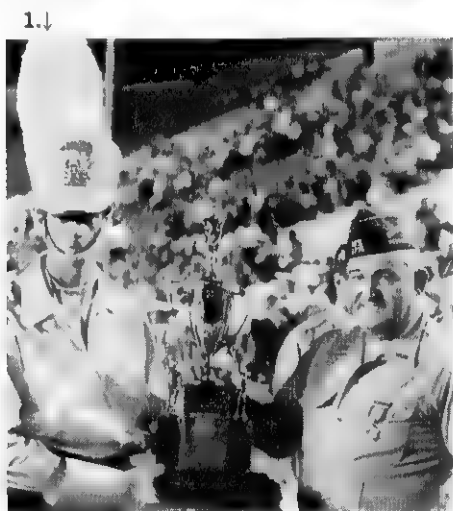
1. Post 1912, West Allis, Wis. ....	(69.30)	\$ 150
2. Post 3463, Denver, Ohio ....	(64.20)	100
3. Post 2947, Fremont, Ohio ....	(61.55)	50

# Million Dollar Pageant of Drums Finals Thrill Large Crowd

The Cotton Bowl in Dallas, Texas, was the site of the Million Dollar Pageant of Drums finals. Held during the 72nd National Convention of the V.F.W., the competition drew a crowd of some 30,000 to the famed stadium.

Taking first place honors by less than a point were the Vanguards sponsored by Post 6305, Campbell, Calif. They nosed out last year's winners, the Troopers of Post 991, Casper, Wyo.

Final results in the various categories of competition in the Million Dollar Pageant of Drums are listed at left.



# Picture Captions

1. The Junior Band and Best in Parade trophies are accepted for the Band of Gold, Dist. 9, Fla., by Jay Brooks from Commander-in-Chief H. R. Rainwater. (609)
2. Jay Stewart, Golden Boots, Post 658, Macon, Ga., receives Junior Rifle Drill Team trophy from Rainwater. (593)
3. Sr. Men's Drill Team trophy won by Post 1912, West Allis, Wis., is accepted by James R. Lamboy from Rainwater. (589)
4. Junior Girls' Drill Team Class "A" was won by R-Lettes, Post 4948, Round Lake, Ill. Debbie Murray (L) and Mary Lou Bennett receive trophy from Odie Lee Gossett, Ladies Aux. Chaplain, and Rainwater. (591)
5. Rhoda Litteau, Illini Patri-ettes, Post 2048, Elmhurst, Ill., accepts Sr. Ladies' Color Guard

- trophy from Chief of Staff William A. Hatfield. (590)
6. The A. J. Schlechta Trophy as the Best Jr. Drum and Bugle Corps was won by the Vanguards, Post 6305, Campbell, Calif. Rainwater presented it to Tim Moxley. (614)
7. Billie Peters, Milwaukee (Wis.) County Council, accepts Sr. Ladies' Drill team trophy from Mary Cottone, Ladies Aux. President. (587)
8. Jr. Color Guard trophy is received by Erna Lindahl (L) and Gail Jones, Troopers, Post 991, Casper, Wyo., from Rainwater. (588)
9. Mary Crnecke (L) and Vicki Mohar, Buccaneers, Post 1230, Sheboygan, Wis., receive Junior Girls' Drill Team Class "B" trophy from Rainwater. (592)
10. All Girls' Drill team trophy went to the Bon Bon Girls, Post 4463, Oaklyn, N.J. From left: Debbie Lyons, Mrs. Cottone, Rainwater. (616)





5.↑

6.↓



8.↓

9.↓



10.↓



7.↓





# Back To The Colors

*After being presented the V.F.W. Gold Medal Award of Merit at the 72nd V.F.W. National Convention, Charles A. King, vice president of Mutual Broadcasting System, had this to say.*

Charles A. King, Mutual Broadcasting vice president, addresses delegates.



**C**ommander Rainwater and I first met following his world tour of the Soviet Union, Vietnam and much of Southeast Asia—a tour of time and energy taken on behalf of our American prisoners of war now being held in Communist hostage slavery.

What he did in lending his name, his office and the prestige of this organization to that effort will some day be part of the history of this conflict.

My acceptance of this award is therefore, with genuine sincerity and pride, not just because of the kind words spoken; mainly because of the stature and genuine unselfish devotion Herb Rainwater and this organization represent to the world.

I am most proud when I say "Thank you."

When Commander Rainwater and John Smith advised me of the honor of the award and too, of appearing before you this morning in Dallas, I thought of a young boy who once sat at his grandfather's side in upstate New York, enthralled with stories of a childhood in Europe; how, with a knapsack of food, he was determined to make

his way across Europe, working in the fields until enough pennies and dollars had been earned to buy passage to a land which would offer dignity, a challenge and a cause which he was denied in his homeland. He never saw his mother or father again, but found a new love for the nation which adopted him, his talents and his determination; yet never asked anything more than loyalty in return.

That his grandson could share the same platform with such distinguished Americans and speak freely and openly is what the original founders left in legacy to those who followed—and why my pride is for this moment and for a nation which has made this moment possible.

Among the 1.7 million who make the Veterans of Foreign Wars one of the most vibrant and pragmatic sentinels of freedom and concern in this nation; among the half million women who, as the Auxiliary, support the aims and principles of those who lend dignity to this republic; among you are many who have chosen this land as the land of adoption; others have come from those who made that choice years

before. We have one thing in common this day in Dallas, not only the organization represented, but the nation we share together.

There is a monument at Gettysburg in honor of the memory of a color bearer who became isolated from his regiment after a charge. The regiment retreated, but the color bearer and several men held their ground. The major sent a messenger through to the boy, "Bring the colors back to the regiment." The boy replied, "Bring the regiment back to the colors."

There is no dispute, no argument with history as to what the V.F.W. has added to the courageous pages of our less than 200 years—or what you have done as civilian Americans to keep this nation intact—because it is there and you know, as I know, that you have done what all Americans need to do, you are indeed bringing the regiment back to the colors.

Recently on a flight to Los Angeles, I was cognizant of the sudden lift of the plane as it left the ground and how almost without warning everything below which minutes before seemed to tower over me as an individual, now became smaller and smaller, and at 35,000 feet the ground voices were mute, the forms like ants and the borders were closing in.

I thought of the fact that somewhere below, in small pockets and areas there were voices still mouting the words of dissent, there were police lines holding back crowds of young and those who should know better, who cry "revolution" and "pig;" there were newspapers being printed with editorials gutter sniping against those who would dare defend law and order; there were the pseudo-giants of the boob tube who were entertaining the leftist darlings of our time and parlaying misery into

*(Continued on page 64)*

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Joseph L. Vicites meets King as Rainwater introduces the two.



# Let's Hear Both Sides

*In his address before the V.F.W. National Convention Tuesday, Aug. 17, Rep. Olin E. Teague (Texas) criticized the news media for too often presenting a distorted, one-sided view of a national issue.*

*Following are excerpts from his speech.*

In this last decade we have been bombarded with news of what is wrong with America.

Often the focus is solely on the negative side—war crimes in Vietnam, poverty, welfare, drugs, hippies and student revolutionaries, the alienated youth, pornography, the rights of the criminal and so on. Our institutions, such as the Pentagon, the FBI, the so-called military-industrial complex, the draft, the police and the federal government are under attack daily.

This constant barrage of editorializing and incessant hammering at America's problems is subtly undermining faith in the country and the credibility of the government.

You can have just so much of this. I am all for constructive criticism, but some of the news media are so preoccupied with destructive self-analysis that it is becoming a matter of national morale. If it continues long enough it can destroy a basic faith in America. I think that is already evident in the disregard for all institutions and the apathetic live-just-for-today

attitude of some of our young people. They are frustrated because they have seen only the negative side.

I am not saying that there are not many legitimate problems which should be exposed or that bad news should be suppressed just because it is bad. But I am worried that too often only a biased and distorted side of the picture is presented under the guise of so-called objective news reporting.

I should emphasize here that this is not true for a great many responsible newspapers and radio and TV stations across the country and I am not talking about those. In this area Texas news media have done a good job. But I am talking about such papers as *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post* and the major TV networks which reach millions daily.

When the Founding Fathers adopted the First Amendment to the Constitution in 1790 guaranteeing a free press, they could not have envisioned the massive and powerful communications system we have today. At that time there was a built-in check and balance on the power of the press through diverse ownership and free competition.

Because of the tremendous cost, the trend in recent decades has been toward monopoly. Single ownership in metropolitan areas is no longer an exception. Three TV net-

works control the airwaves. This means that a relatively few anonymous and faceless individuals control the information that reaches millions of Americans every day.

In an elected representative government such as ours, the news media are all-important. It is the main channel between the government and the people. It is the principal means by which the public is kept informed of what its elected officials are up to.

By focusing on some issues and ignoring others, the news media determine what people think and write their Congressman about. The selection of the news can itself be a form of discrimination. We tend to think about the problems of which we are constantly reminded.

The news media have tremendous political power. They can make or break a political candidate by the kind of exposure they give him and they can defeat him once he is in office by the way they report what he does. The media virtually control the information on which the public in an elective democracy must base its opinions and decisions.

With this great opinion making power, it is of the utmost importance that the news media exercise responsibility. By responsibility I mean that both sides of an issue should be presented. I cannot believe that is so difficult as some

*(Continued on page 59)*

Rep. Olin E. Teague calls for journalistic fairness.



Rainwater welcomes Teague to the podium before the Texas congressman begins his speech attacking newspapers and television.





V.F.W. support for the Veterans Administration's efforts on behalf of America's ex-servicemen was a highlight of Donald E. Johnson's speech to the V.F.W. National Convention Aug. 17 at the Statler Hilton Hotel in Dallas.

Johnson, VA Administrator, pointed out that the V.F.W. "has not always agreed with every policy and program or with every decision and activity of the Veterans Administration and it never will—or should.

"But the V.F.W. also has never failed to give its wholehearted, vigorous and effective support to the concept and the reality of an adequately funded, independent Veterans Administration, a VA with total responsibility and authority to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and orphan."

In addition, Johnson said V.F.W. members consistently have recognized the "dedication, compassion of the 170,000 men and women in the VA with whom I have been privileged to work."

Johnson called the Vietnam veterans "the new veterans, now making the V.F.W. a growing, stronger organization, now most in need of help and now most entitled to those benefits and services which constitute the practical expression of their nation's gratitude."

## VA Stockholders' Report

No agency will take over VA tasks while he is its head, VA Administrator Donald E. Johnson (right) tells delegates.



Johnson said the 1972 VA budget of \$11 billion is the highest in its history and three programs "are of paramount importance."

These, he explained, are the \$6.2 billion in compensation and pension payments, the \$2 billion in education and training benefits and the \$2.3 billion in hospital and medical care for veterans.

Referring to his talk as a "stockholders' report," Johnson said "if our stockholders' report shows compensation and pension benefits as a delayed or deferred cost of wars past, then the GI Bill education and training program must be identified as one of the wisest, most profitable investments in the America of today and tomorrow that has ever been made."

A total of nearly 13 million World War II, Korean War and Vietnam era veterans have trained under it, he continued.

The country has benefited through the greater ability of educated and trained citizens to pay taxes, colleges and universities have profited and American businessmen have learned that on-the-job training "is good for business, good for the veteran and good for America," he said.

Vietnam veterans are taking advantage of the GI Bill's education and training benefits in record numbers, Johnson continued. His prediction that as many Vietnam veterans would have trained in less than five years as Korean veterans in 13 years "was too conservative."

Instead "this past April the present program exceeded the Korean total by nearly 100,000 and it is going to continue growing," Johnson asserted.

Since becoming administrator, Johnson said, he has cut the red tape "involved in getting admitted to our VA hospitals." Included in this step was an end to disclosure of income by veterans 65 or older and a notarized statement of inability to pay.

Johnson predicted that the 1971-72 fiscal year, for which \$2.3 billion has been budgeted for VA medicine, will be marked by unmatched progress such as care for 843,000 veterans, nearly 8 million outpatient visits to hospitals and \$69 million for VA medical and prosthetic research.

In addition, \$93 million will be spent for hospital construction and 53,000 medical personnel will be trained in VA hospitals.

*(Continued on page 55)*

## Senate Leader Praises Organization For Legislative, Patriotic Efforts

# V.F.W. Does Its Homework

Commander-in-Chief H. R. Rainwater (right) welcomes Sen. Herman E. Talmadge to the podium. The Georgian is on the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee.



V.F.W. effectiveness in winning approval for legislation that benefits veterans and its patriotic posture were praised by Sen. Herman Talmadge (Ga.), ranking majority member of the newly-established Senate Veterans Affairs Committee.

"The V.F.W. has done its homework," Talmadge said. "It has been in the forefront in the efforts for veterans benefits."

Talmadge addressed the V.F.W. 72nd National Convention in Dallas on Aug. 19 at the Statler Hilton Hotel.

He said that the past year "has been an important one for veterans legislation because we have been able to make a great deal of progress."

"There was more legislation to benefit veterans in 1970 than at any time since the end of World War II."

Talmadge said "the V.F.W. is composed of people who represent the spirit of America, people who represent democracy and patriotism."

"The V.F.W. has never been afraid to stand up and be counted," he continued. "You never back away from a course you believe right and in the best interests of America. Your main concern in the past, present and future is Americanism and that's a cause worth championing."

Talmadge expressed the wish that attitudes such as those expressed by the V.F.W. were prevalent in the United States, which "needs champions and less draft card burners, flag desecrators and less whining and complaining."

"We need people who are ready and willing to stand up for America in good times and bad," he said. "We need a strong America and I stand with you every step of the way and I am sure you will marshal the support of all the nation's veterans."

Talmadge said the veterans population of the U.S. totals 28 million and with dependents accounts for half of all the people living in this country.

"I know of no harder working group of citizens in the United States," he continued. "The country owes all who served in the armed forces a debt that can never be repaid. The veterans are the strength and sinews of our nation. Because of these men our nation is strong and free today."

Reviewing some of the currently enacted legislation, Talmadge cited increased compensation for disabled veterans and the creation of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee ("which will keep up the momentum of legislation").

"I know as you are aware that we have had inadequate staffs and hospital rooms for veterans who need it now, not next year," he said. "I see that it has been taken care of and I believe the President will implement it—the adequate means for hospital care for wounded and maimed."

Talmadge called for greater respect for American servicemen from the public at large.

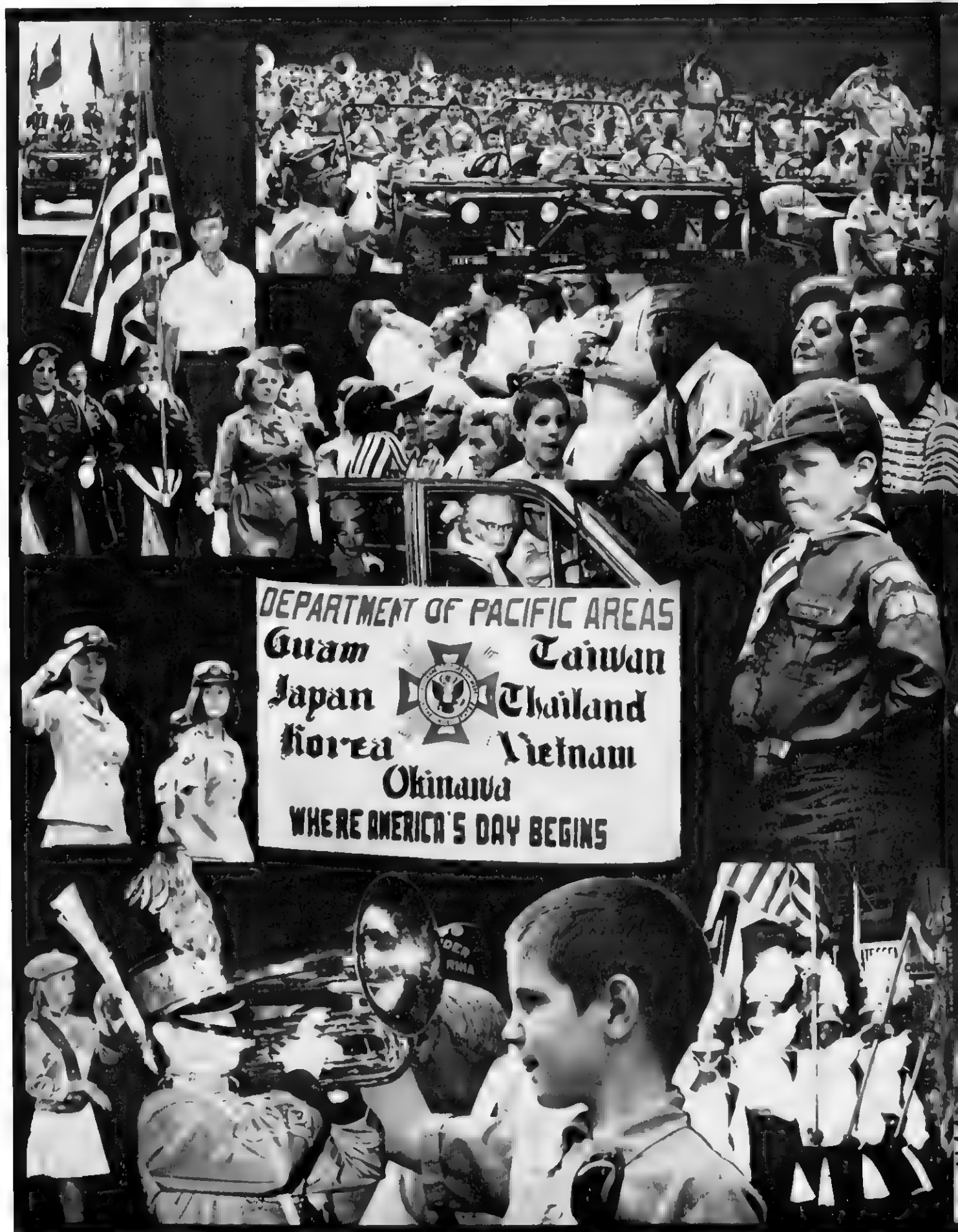
"The man who puts on a uniform has the right to respect," he said. "I have been fed up with the growing criticism of the Defense Department. The military has weakened its effectiveness because of the abuse, as if it were the lowest form of life."

"I am critical of senators who make speeches on the floor of the Senate that are repeated the next day on Radio Hanoi," and he pledged that nothing he would say could be incorporated into North Vietnam's propaganda machine.

Discussing the draft, Talmadge said "no one likes to have his life interrupted but every man should be proud to serve when called upon."

He added, however, that he  
(Continued on page 57)

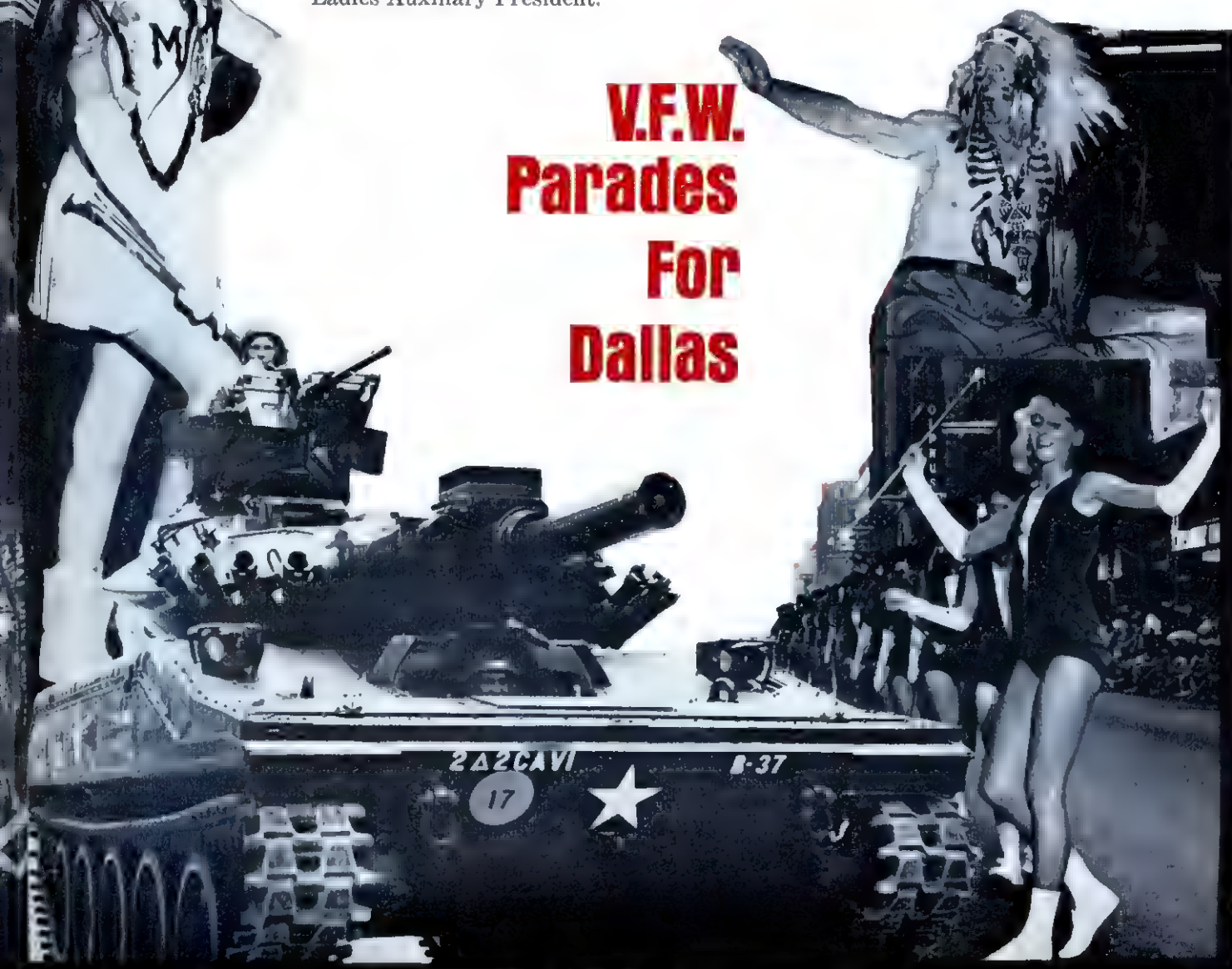






**S**ome 100,000 lined downtown Dallas' streets to watch the 20,000 who marched in the six-hour V.F.W. military parade. At the reviewing stand (above) are Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Pat Carr, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Joseph L. Vicites, Lt. Gen. Beverly E. Powell, grand marshal; Roy Smith, civilian aide to the Secretary of the Army; Commander-in-Chief H. R. Rainwater and Mary Cottone, Ladies Auxiliary President.

## V.F.W. Parades For Dallas





# Vietnam Veterans Seek Growth in V.F.W.

**T**hree days of meetings by the V.F.W. Vietnam Veterans Caucus during the 72nd National Convention in Dallas explored suggestions for the recruitment of Vietnam veterans and retention of those now in the V.F.W.

During the discussions, Adjutant General Julian Dickenson reviewed the success the organization has had so far in attracting 450,000 Vietnam veterans.

Raymond J. McHugh, chief of the Copley News Service Bureau in Washington, who also spoke, attributed much of the public's failure to grasp the issues involved in Vietnam to ignorance of Southeast Asia.

"Most Americans have been well-schooled in the history of Europe and in recent years they are beginning to understand the Middle East, but Southeast Asia might as well be the other side of the moon," he said. "Perhaps before the Vietnam war not more than

10,000 Americans ever visited Indochina.

"Part of the problem lies in the fact, too, that this war is the first to be covered by the 'new breed' of journalist, the one well-educated in sociology unlike an earlier generation steeped in history, politics and geography."

McHugh added that the decision of several Administrations "to follow a policy of guns and butter put Vietnam in the background as a national concern."

Although McHugh said the "truth never hurt anyone," he suggested that "in certain phases of the Vietnam operation a case could be made for press censorship."

As for Vietnam veterans themselves, McHugh said "you are the victims of the nuclear age, a new era in which a nation dare not lose a war but at the same time dare not win it either."

Preston F. Garriss, Junior Vice

Commander of the North Carolina Department, was elected caucus chairman, and B. E. Roberts, of the Missouri Department, was chosen secretary.

A Medal of Honor winner from Hammond, La., Raymond M. Clausen, was named honorary secretary.

The approximately 50 delegates who attended the caucus sessions represented 17 Departments.

A statement adopted by the Vietnam veterans protested the depiction of men who have fought in Southeast Asia as "mass murderers and dopeheads."

"Realizing that the war in Vietnam is a very unpopular war, we believe our government has been right in its actions taken in the Vietnam situation," the statement said. "We feel the U.S. is the leader of the free world and if we want to remain free we must be prepared to help protect all free nations in the world from being taken over militarily by the Communists . . .

"For if we don't fight in other parts of the world we will surely have to fight on our own soil.

"We believe that our troops are fighting for our heritage and freedom in Vietnam as well as the freedom of the South Vietnamese people.

"We feel we speak for the Vietnam veterans because we have the most members in our ranks (the V.F.W.) who have actually fought in Vietnam. We do not in any way recognize the so very few veterans who claim to be speaking for us by demonstrating and making fools of us."

Throughout the meeting, the caucus participants emphasized that their goal was to "build a bigger and better V.F.W. organization."

On the final day of meetings Frank A. Runions, Missouri Department Commander; Stanley F. Kolniak, Louisiana Department Commander; Ernest S. Hubbard, North Carolina Department Commander, and Claude McCarthy, Washington Department Commander, were introduced. ■



Raymond J. McHugh, chief of the Copley News Service Bureau in Washington, D. C., chats with North Carolina Junior Vice Commander Preston F. Garriss (R) who chaired a V.F.W. Vietnam Veterans Caucus held during the National Convention.

# Citadel of Patriotism

## New Commander-in-Chief Firm Believer In V.F.W.

by Howard Silber

Joseph L. Vicites is an uncommonly successful salesman and like most men of similar accomplishment, the new Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States credits his success not so much to his own ability as to his absolute belief and faith in the product he is selling.

Joe Vicites has been a powerful believer in the V.F.W. since May of 1946 when he was inducted into Post 47 in Uniontown, Pa. The Post's home is built on the site of the birthplace of Gen. George C. Marshall and three of the original walls are still standing.

During his 25 years as a member, he has devoted his spare time, his energies and his talents to building his Post and the entire V.F.W. into a bigger, stronger, better organization. And veterans who have been introduced to the organization by Joe have benefited commensurately.

"It isn't difficult," he declared. "Not when you have something to sell.

"There is no organization that offers so much as the V.F.W. I have sold it on its ability to help the veteran and on the potential of every member to make use of the organization to help his comrades.

"I have sold it on our record of service to the community, the state and the nation. I've sold it on the basis of the good we do with our National Home at Eaton Rapids, Mich.

"I've sold it on the comradeship that we enjoy in the V.F.W.—a comradeship that transcends the economic status or social position of members. Whether a man is a highly-paid professional or whether he works with his hands, it is all the same in the V.F.W. We are equal and there is no consciousness of anything except equality. That's a powerful selling point to anyone who really believes in this country.

"And I've sold the V.F.W. on its status as a very select organization which has a membership limited to men who are fortunate enough to have been of extraordinary service to the United States.

"Our eligibility requirements are firm and unyielding. Congress made them that way in our charter. If you do not qualify, there is no way for you to become a member—not with money, not with power, not with influence. You must have the credentials of a campaign ribbon or medal.

"Money, power and influence can buy many things—most things in this world. But they won't buy a membership into the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Our organization stands alone."

And Joe Vicites leaves his chair and stands tall as he talks about the V.F.W. His face softens and his dark eyes reflect his sincerity.

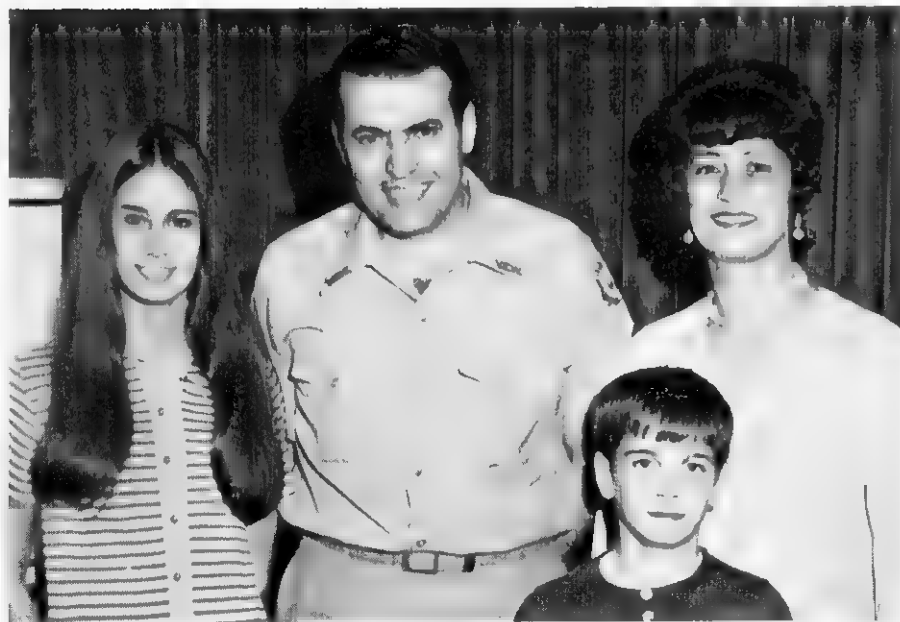
"We live in the greatest country in the world," he said. "It isn't a perfect country and there is room for it to be even greater. No organization is more active and more effective than the V.F.W. in striving to make the United States greater and more perfect.

"That's why I sell the V.F.W. I sell the V.F.W. because, through it, I sell my country."

Joe Vicites was born 47 years ago in Uniontown, Pa. The death of his Spanish-born father, while Joe and his sister were tots, left his mother, who was of Italian-American descent, to bring up the two fatherless children.

"She struggled for us," said the Commander-in-Chief. "She was a cook for restaurants. She'd leave the house at six in the morning and often not return until seven or eight at night.

"I used to tell her, 'Mom, it's not  
(Continued on page 52)



Commander-in-Chief Joseph L. Vicites and his wife, Dolores, pose with their two children, Debbie, 19, and Vincent, 11, after his election.



1. They "made immortal their patriotism" ... Bishop William J. Moran.
2. The Naval Air Training Command Choir from Pensacola, Fla.
3. Commander-in-Chief H. R. Rainwater places wreath at symbolic grave.



2↓

3↑



1↓



## In Remembrance

**D**elegates to the 72nd V.F.W. National Convention in Dallas, Texas, paused Sunday, Aug. 15, to honor the memory of those who died defending the freedom of America.

Over 4,000 V.F.W. members attended the tribute at which the Most Rev. William J. Moran (Brig. Gen. Ret.), auxiliary bishop in the Army military ordinariate, spoke.

"For love of country and their fellowman, they accepted death,

and thus resolved all doubts, and made immortal their patriotism and love," he said.

"These men died that we might have freedom and peace," he continued. "To make that desire come true...to be faithful to their hopes, is a task that is up to us and to our nation."

Bishop Moran explained that, "Perhaps we have accepted the freedom of choice won for us by our forefathers and by the men we

honor tonight and are using it to choose the wrong things... The freedom, we now claim, has come to mean freedom from all unpleasantness—from hardship, from discipline, from the stern voice of duty, from the pain of self-sacrifice...

"We have clamored for total freedom, and we have just about got it, and now we are facing a bleak and chilling truth: We have flung off one external restraint and another, including restraint of ourselves..."

"It is a distorted concept of freedom which leaves men free to be selfish, free to be lazy, free to be weak, free to be ignoble. This is not the freedom which the men we honor tonight won for us and in history preserved for us, and if we are to really remember them... our first and fundamental choice must be not to abuse that freedom."

"If we do not abuse freedom then surely and unalterably we shall be on the road to peace, a peace which was also the objective of our fallen comrades when they died to preserve freedom."

Special music was played prior to the program by organist Mrs. Lionel Schulz, of Trinity Lutheran Church, Dallas, and the band from V.F.W. Post 701, Lansing, Mich.

During the Memorial Service, the Naval Air Training Command Choir from Pensacola, Fla., sang the National Anthem, "Nearer, My God, To Thee," "Sleep, Soldier Boy," "Peace of God" and "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

Featured on stage was a symbolic military grave, replete with crosses and the Star of David. It represented all who died in the service of America.

V.F.W. Commander-in-Chief H. R. Rainwater, National Auxiliary President Mrs. Mary Cottone and other V.F.W. National officers laid wreaths and flowers on the grave during the service.

The V.F.W. Memorial Ritual was conducted by Fr. Robert J. McCoy, National Chaplain. The Invocation was given by Rabbi Dr. Nissin Wernick, Congregation Shearith Israel, and the benediction by the Rev. Ralph L. Smith, Lancaster Ave. United Methodist Church and chaplain, 980th Eng. Bn. USAR.

Seated in positions of honor in the audience were Gold Star parents whose sons had died in America's wars. They were escorted into and from the hall by members of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Department of Texas.

# RESOLUTIONS AND AMENDMENTS

## ADOPTED BY THE 72nd V.F.W. NATIONAL CONVENTION

• Nearly 175 resolutions were approved by delegates to the 72nd annual National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States in Dallas, Texas, Aug. 13-20. Several others were referred to the appropriate V.F.W. National group for implementation or further study for recommendations.

### **By-Laws, Rules and Procedure, and Ritual**

R-1. Amends Ritual regulations on order of precedence of military units participating in Parades.

R-3. Amends Ritual concerning balloting on acceptance of new members.

R-4. Outlines proper method of holding V.F.W. hat during prayer.

### **Americanism and Community Activities**

101. Endorses and urges support of the Voice of Democracy program.

102. Asks establishment of Veterans Day as a national legal holiday.

103. Opposes hiring Communists as teachers.

104. Opposes a World Government.

111. Calls for punishment as a felony any public display of a flag or banner of a foreign nation holding American POWs.

112. Urges legislation making the **Star Spangled Banner** the National Anthem using Francis Scott Key's words and Thomas Carr's music.

114. Asks Presidential proclamation urging flying of U.S. Flag over public buildings and V.F.W. Posts day and night as a symbol of hope for peace and unity.

115. Urges placing certain groups on the un-American and subversive list and prosecution of all persons and groups performing treasonable acts.

117. Seeks legislation.

118. Urges adoption of a uniform national Flag law with penalties for deliberate violations.

123. Recommends regulations be established governing half-staffing the Flag.

124. Asks restoration of the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance in schools.

125. Recommends May 1, "Loyalty and Law Day," be designated a legal holiday.

126. Urges all V.F.W. units to participate in the commemoration of America's 200th anniversary.

127. Urges severe penalties for Flag desecration.

128. Seeks to change certain patriotic holidays back to original historical dates.

129. Favors a National Teachers Day.

130. Commends U.S. Supreme Court for upholding laws which prohibit Flag desecration.

131. Urges all V.F.W. Posts to expand participation in community affairs.

132. Asks June 14 be designated a national legal holiday.

135. Opposes proposed changes in wording of the Pledge of Allegiance.

136. Seeks investigation of certain dissident, violent and so-called non-violent groups.

### **Finance and Internal Organization**

215. Urges Posts give a high priority to programs assisting needy veterans and widows and orphans of veterans.

216. Asks city and state be included on Life Membership cards.

### **General Resolutions**

301. Calls for cooperation with certain national and state groups to promote youth, safety and patriotic programs.

302. Endorses House Resolution which would provide a national charter for the "Gold Star Wives of America, Inc."

303. Urges Lump-Sum Death Benefit under Social Security be increased to \$850.

304. Requests a commemorative U.S. postage stamp honoring Audie Murphy.

305. Supports lowering age limit to 62 for full Social Security benefits.

306. Urges campaign medal for Korean service, July 28, 1954 to Oct. 1, 1966.

307. Expresses support of FBI and J. Edgar Hoover.

308. Seeks UN action to combat illegal drug traffic.

309. Urges more funds for drug abuse research.

310. Asks for stiffer penalties for drug pushers.

311. Seeks enlargement of Antietam National Battlefield.

312. Supports bill which would end financial aid to nations not cooperating in stopping opium traffic.

313. Asks that first \$5,000 of military pay while on active duty be exempted from income taxes.

314. Asks for postage stamp honoring Spanish-American War veterans.

315. Urges support of certain traffic safety programs and organizations.

316. Calls upon FCC action to provide equal time from news media for non-radical veterans.

318. Asks Congress to enact legislation requiring the Senate to reconfirm terms of federal judges every 10 years.

319. Commends handling of Washington, D.C., demonstrations in April and May, 1971.

320. Opposes any new federal legislation regulating firearms and ammunition.

321. Seeks APO-FPO privileged for V.F.W. units overseas.

322. Asks V.F.W. units overseas be included on itinerary of Congressmen and other U.S. dignitaries.

323. Urges tax exemption for military travel pay.

324. Opposes issuance of permits for the use of public grounds for demonstration against the government.

327. Urges implementation of rehabilitation programs recommended for juvenile crime offenders.

328. Urges objective news reporting by TV.

330. Asks continued support of certain national health service organizations.

331. Commends the Defense Department for its effective testing program of medicine used in U.S. military facilities.

332. Commends Reserve Officers Assn. of the United States on golden anniversary.

333. Endorses activities of the Blinded Veterans Assn.

334. Seeks mandatory action that government employees, traveling on international business, use U.S. airlines.

335. Seeks free first class mail and increased package weight and size for overseas military personnel.

336. Opposes commercialization of national shrines.

(NOTE: Resolution 325 which calls for endorsement of plans for a Peace Temple at Cape Henry, Va., was referred to the National Council of Administration.)

### **National Security and Foreign Affairs**

401. Demands proper treatment and observance of Geneva Convention provisions for American POWs held in Southeast Asia by Communists.

404. Urges establishment of a Latin America policy to assure mutual trust and good will in this hemisphere.

408. Supports ROTC and asks that all land-grant colleges and universities be required to offer it as a credit course.

409. Urges severe penalties for desertion from military service.

410. Seeks prosecution of those obstructing military induction activities and punishment of draft evaders.

412. Asks punishment of those who aid deserters from military service.

413. Opposes amnesty for defectors.

415. Opposes abolition of Selective Reserve of the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve.

417. Urges Congress to provide for a strong national defense force.

421. Condemns disclosure and publication of any information damaging to the nation's security and favors prosecution of individuals or organizations participating in such actions.

423. Urges that all physically and mentally capable males be required to serve in some branch of the military service.

428. Opposes ratification by Congress of the UN "Genocide Convention" declaration as it would deprive U.S. citizens of their Constitutional rights by allowing them to be tried in international courts.

431. Asks extension of Selective Service to assure sufficient strength for military forces.

436. Seeks restoration of privileges and benefits to retired military personnel equal to those on active duty.

438. Urges prosecution of all who provide any form of assistance to North Vietnam.

441. Seeks Defense Department encouragement of support of V.F.W. units on military installations.

443. Outlines V.F.W. position on war saying it should be avoided wherever possible, if consistent with national security and obligations, and if war is unavoidable that no restraints be placed upon U.S. military men in achieving a complete victory.

444. Requests CBS disclose all material gathered but not used in "Selling of the Pentagon" in order that viewers can judge the credibility of the documentary.

447. Opposes tentative plan by Mack Truck, Inc., to build plant in Soviet Union.

448. Urges action be taken to assure the

strength, spirit and integrity of the military is maintained.

449. Supports the President's policies in Southeast Asia.

451. Calls for hearings and review of the court martial system and code of conduct by the Armed Service Committees of Congress.

452. Supports the President's peace efforts, including his planned visit to Red China, but urges him not to make further concessions without reciprocity from Peking. Opposes admission of Red China into UN unless its policies are reversed and also diplomatic recognition at the expense of Nationalist China (Taiwan). Also urges U.S. to honor its 1954 treaty commitment to Nationalist China.

454. Urges expansion of U.S. military capability to meet expanding Soviet military capability.

455. Supports peace efforts in the Middle East and any efforts by the U.S. to counterbalance Soviet influence there.

456. Urges U.S. to increase its naval ship-building efforts.

### **Rehabilitation and Welfare Service**

601. Urges halt in reduction of VA hospital beds and patient loads.

602. Seeks a national cemetery in every state.

603. Supports liberalization of pension program for veterans and widows.

605. Recommends certain changes to improve veterans federal Civil Service employment and reemployment rights.

606. Calls for preservation and extension of veterans preference in government employment.

607. Seeks certain improvements in armed forces benefits, claims and retirement.

608. Recommends adequate funds to operate VA hospital system and other improvements in the Department of Medicine and Surgery program.

610. Urges establishment of a Department of Veterans Affairs and its elevation to Cabinet status.

611. Opposes any reduction or elimination of Veterans burial allowances and instead calls for an increase.

612. Opposes any takeover of VA medical facilities to implement a national health insurance plan.

614. Opposes admittance of non-veterans to VA hospitals.

616. Recommends certain improvements and increases in VA and Social Security benefits.

617. Seeks expansion of medical care for veterans with alcohol problems.

618. Asks Feb. 1, 1955, be set as the start of the Vietnam War for the purpose of entitlement to benefits.

619. Strongly endorses and urges passage of the Servicemen's, Veterans and Ex-Servicemen's Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1971. Also asks those addicted to alcohol be included under its provisions.

621. Seeks amendment to U.S. Code to allow payment of compensation claims for injuries or deaths in natural disasters such as the earthquake which caused a VA hospital at San Fernando, Calif., to collapse.

623. Urges minimum pensions for WWI veterans of \$125 per month, single, and \$150 per month, married, with no income limitations.

627. Asks 750-bed VA hospital be constructed on east coast of Florida, north of West Palm Beach.

629. Urges computation of compensation in accordance with percentage of disability.

630. Opposes cutbacks in facilities at Danville, Ill., VA hospital.

631. Urges a \$47 statutory award be added to regular compensation payments for service-connected ear injury or disease.

632. Seeks additional compensation for clothing for service-connected disabled veterans wearing a brace or corrective device.

633. Asks retention of 10 point veterans preference when cutbacks and reductions in Civil Service employment occur.

634. Seeks increase statutory award to \$67 per month for veterans suffering from service-connected arrested tuberculosis.

635. Requests Fort Sheridan, Ill., be converted to a national cemetery.

636. Reaffirms V.F.W. stand that jurisdiction of national cemeteries be transferred to VA.

642. Asks WWI status and benefits for those serving in the armed forces, Nov. 12, 1919, through July 2, 1921, be restored.

643. Seeks to correct inequities in Servicemen's Group Life Insurance program involving the increase in maximum insurance from \$10,000 to \$15,000 in June, 1970.

(Continued on next page)



(Continued from last page)

648. Urges passage of S. 2168 which would liberalize and increase educational and training assistance for returning Vietnam veterans.

652. Seeks to extend DIC payments to widows, children and dependent parents of service connected, totally disabled veterans who die of non-service connected causes.

653. Asks removal of income limitations for parents eligible to receive DIC.

655. Seeks RH insurance for service connected disabled veterans who, except for that disability, are insurable.

657. Supports H.R. 984 and S. 325 which provide that military widows annuity be identical to the Civil Service annuity.

659. Urges replacement of Allen Park, Mich., VA Hospital with a new one in metropolitan Detroit.

661. Calls for continuance of VA Direct Home Loan program.

665. Seeks extension of medical and hospital coverage for serviceman and his family for 90 days to 10 months after separation from service.

666. Urges veterans educational assistance be raised to same level as WWII veterans.

670. Seeks increase in maximum VA Direct Home Loan amount to \$25,000.

673. Asks legislation to eliminate discrimination in amount of educational assistance received by veterans attending training schools.

677. Seeks to establish a veterans clinic or medical center in St. Lawrence and Franklin counties, N.Y.

678. Urges restoration of educational benefits to WWII and Korean veterans who have not used their full entitlement.

679. Asks that military honor guards be furnished for funerals in national cemeteries.

683. Supports adoption of legislation to provide Government Life Insurance for veterans unable to obtain commercial life insurance.

685. Seeks recognition of armed forces medical training by medical licensing agencies.

689. Seeks granting of aid and attendance benefits to minors if they meet the same requirements as widows must meet.

690. Asks increased burial allowance for service connected deaths.

691. Urges DIC for widows of 100% service connected disabled veterans.

693. Seeks extra consideration of benefits for parents who have lost more than one son through military service.

694. Asks legislation excluding Social Security from pensioners' reportable income.

696. Seeks return transportation to U.S. be authorized for dependents of retired military personnel who die overseas.

699. Requests review of water testing requirements for VA Home Loans to assure they guarantee good drinking water.

702. Opposes reduction of bed and services at Salem, Va., VA Hospital.

704. Calls on Office of Management and Budget to make funds available to adequately staff VA Regional offices.

705. Seeks establishment as service connected, deaths of veterans with 100% compensation for 10 years or more.

706. Asks change in U.S. Code to increase from \$1,200 to \$2,000 amount of income of spouse to be excluded by VA in determining a veteran's income.

707. Seeks change in VA regulations covering effective date of documents received by VA.

708. Urges prohibiting the selling of burial sites in national cemeteries to private citizens.

709. Seeks amendment to P.O. 86-211 so widows of Spanish-American and Indian Wars may elect benefits under other laws.

712. Urges adequate funds be provided for the "Jobs for Veterans" program.

715. Urges that all steps possible be taken to assure employment to returning veterans.

716. Requests 2,000 additional Veterans Employment Representatives to assure proper job counseling for veterans.

717. Urges veterans be given first priority in job placement programs.

718. Supports veterans reemployment rights program.

719. Recommends Veterans Readjustment Appointment program to returning Vietnam veterans.

720. Urges adequate funds for Veterans Employment Service to assure adequate employment assistance to veterans.

721. Seeks funds to adequately carry out job training and job placement programs for veterans.

722. Asks amendment or regulations to allow granting of administrative leave from Civil Service employment to veterans for examination or treatment of service connected disabilities in addition to annual and sick leave normally authorized.

724. Seeks liberalization of disadvantaged criteria for veterans in Dept. of Labor training programs.

725. Asks adequate funds for Public Employment Service.

726. Urges VA to eliminate Black Lung compensation as income for pension benefits.

729. Asks that unusual medical expenses be deducted from a veteran's income in considering a pension.

730. Seeks improvement in graduated compensation for service connected disabilities.

731. Protests any budget reductions which would hamper the VA hospital program.

732. Urges veterans preference for all federal employment, training and programs.

733. Requests additional Veterans Employment Representatives.

734. Seeks additional funds for Dept. of Labor to hire Vietnam veterans in Veterans Employment Service.

735. Asks for improvements in the federal unemployment compensation program for veterans.

736. Urges legislation authorizing review of all forfeited benefit cases.

737. Seeks Special Endowment at Age 96 Plan for National Service Life Insurance.

738. Opposes H.J.R. 748 which would coordinate VA programs with Public Health programs.

(NOTE: The following resolutions were referred to either the National Legislative Service or the National Veterans Service for appropriate action.)

625. Asks support of H.J. 438 which would establish a Commission on Philippine Guerrilla Recognition.

660. Seeks draft of psychiatrists and trained psychologists for Drug Rehabilitation Centers.

663. Urges that authority to grant or deny a Direct Home Loan be made at the Regional VA Office and that such loans be at least 1% below that of local private lenders.

667. Asks that military education and experience qualify for certain credits in educational institutions.

668. Seeks non-service connected pensions at age 65 regardless of estate or income.

674. Urges establishment of a VA Hospital and Medical School in Queens County, N.Y.

680. Urges reduction of mortgage rates on GI Home Loans to 4%.

687. Seeks issuance of identification cards by VA hospitals to all service connected veterans.

700. Requests that an injustice by the U.S. Army to Michael Haley be corrected.

703. Asks that all earned income for VA purposes for widows of veterans be excluded.

727. Seeks to eliminate spouses public and private annuities as constituting income for veterans with non-service connected pensions

#### Amendments to By-Laws

##### Section 111—Life Members

Amend Section 111, National By-Laws, by inserting the following paragraph after the fee schedule:

"Any applicant whose 41st, 61st or 71st birthday will occur after the date of application and on or before December 31st of the current year, shall pay only the fee that would be required on his next birthday."

##### Section 615—National Veterans Service Committee

Amend Section 615, National By-Laws, by deleting the words "Rehabilitation and Service" in paragraphs (b) and (e), and the words "Rehabilitation Service" in paragraph (f), inserting, in each case, in lieu thereof, the words "Veterans Service."

Further amend Section 615, National By-Laws, by deleting the word "Rehabilitation" wherever it appears in paragraph (c) and inserting, in each case, in lieu thereof, the word "Veterans."

##### Section 617—Regional National Council of Administration Members—How Elected

Amend Section 617, National By-Laws, by deleting the second paragraph and the enumeration of Departments comprising National Council Districts, and inserting the following in lieu thereof:

"Regional districts consisting of a single Department having in excess of 70,000 members shall bear alphabetical rather than numerical designations. The regional districts designated A, B, C, F, and G shall each elect a National Council Member with term commencing at the 1971 National Convention and every two years thereafter; Districts D and E shall each elect a National Council Member with term commencing at the 1972 National Convention and every two years thereafter.

1. Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont.
2. Connecticut, Massachusetts.
3. New Jersey, Maryland.
4. Delaware, Rhode Island, District of Columbia.
5. Indiana, Missouri.

6. Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia.
7. Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina.
8. Georgia, Florida, Alabama.
9. Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas.
10. Texas, Oklahoma.
11. Wisconsin, Iowa.
12. Wyoming, South Dakota, North Dakota.
13. Nebraska, Kansas.
14. Idaho, Montana, Washington.
15. New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona.
16. Hawaii, Panama Canal Zone, Pacific Areas, Alaska.
17. Utah, Nevada, Oregon.
- A. Pennsylvania.
- B. Illinois.
- C. New York.
- D. Ohio.
- E. Minnesota.
- F. Michigan.
- G. California."

##### Section 711—Buddy Poppy

Amend Section 711, National By-Laws, by deleting the words "Service and Rehabilitation" wherever they appear and inserting, in each case, in lieu thereof, the words "Veterans Service."

##### Section 711—Buddy Poppy

Amend Section 711, National By-Laws, by deleting all after the word "Headquarters" in the 8th line of the second paragraph and inserting the following in lieu thereof:

"Provided that the Council of Administration of each Department shall determine the price at which poppies are sold to the Posts of that Department. Such price shall be sufficient to adequately cover the tax and the cost of manufacture, distribution and promotion of the poppies."

#### Amendments to Manual of Procedure

##### Section 103—Election, Notification, Obligation

Amend Section 103, Manual of Procedure, subsection entitled "Balloting on Applications" by deleting the entire section and inserting the following in lieu thereof:

"Before voting on the application during a regular Post meeting, the Commander will read the report of the investigating committee, and the members present will be given an opportunity to state their objections, if any, to the admission of the applicant. Unless one member present shall request a written ballot, a viva voce vote shall be taken and a majority of the votes cast shall decide acceptance or rejection of the application. In case of a tie vote, the Commander shall cast the deciding vote. If the application fails to win a majority of the votes cast, the applicant may resubmit his application after a lapse of one year.

"In any event, the Senior Vice Commander and the Junior Vice Commander (or in their absence those who sit at their station) shall count the ballots (in case of a written ballot) before the decision is announced and any member present shall have the right to examine the ballots before the results are announced.

"Should there be no objection from any member present, several applications for membership may be grouped and accepted by viva voce vote. Upon the request of one member, any individual's application must be voted on separately by written ballot and upon the request of any three members, all applications must be voted upon separately by written ballot."

##### Section 218—Officers, Powers and Duties

Amend Section 218, Manual of Procedure, subsection entitled "Duty of Trustees" in the last line of paragraph four by deleting the words "before payment may be made by the Quartermaster."

##### Section 610—Officers, Powers and Duties

Amend Section 610, Manual of Procedure, "Duty of National Service Officer", by deleting the word "Rehabilitation" and inserting in lieu thereof the word "Veterans."

##### Section 803—Uniforms, Badges and Insignia

Amend Section 803, Manual of Procedure, by deleting the second sentence of paragraph eight, and inserting the following in lieu thereof:

"It shall be optional to wear a U.S. Flag patch and/or a wartime divisional insignia with appropriate Post lettering on the right sleeve at the shoulder. If both are worn, the insignia shall be placed below the Flag patch."

# NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

## Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

General Orders No. 1

1971-72 Series

1. Having been elected Commander-in-Chief and having been installed in office in accordance with the By-Laws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, I hereby assume command.
2. The following officers having been duly elected and installed by the 72nd National Convention will be accorded the recognition due them:
  - Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief: Patrick E. Carr, Post 6640, Metairie, Louisiana
  - Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief: Ray R. Soden, Post 2149, Bensenville, Illinois
  - Quartermaster General: J. A. Cheatham, Post 869, Kansas City, Kansas
  - Judge Advocate General: John J. Stang, Post 3147, LaCrosse, Kansas
  - Surgeon General: Dr. R. J. Meehan, Post 9291, Thomaston, Maine
  - National Chaplain: Rev. Charles H. Carpenter, Post 1957, Hickory, North Carolina
  - National Council of Administration:
    - District No. 1—Kenneth R. Green, Post 1603, Lewiston-Auburn, Maine
    - District No. 3—James G. Caffrey, Jr., Post 1439, Newark, New Jersey
    - District No. 5—Audie W. Rainbolt, Post 1693, New Albany, Indiana
    - District No. 7—Claude H. Davis, Post 4798, Trenton, Tennessee
    - District No. 9—Bernard M. McClelland, Post 2618, Brookhaven, Mississippi
    - District No. 11—E. Ed Mortensen, Post 1391, Racine, Wisconsin
    - District No. 13—Robert B. Oswald, Post 4912, West Point, Nebraska
    - District No. 15—Manuel A. Armijo, Post 2951, Santa Fe, New Mexico
    - District No. 17—James H. Mason, Post 5787, Springville, Utah
    - District A—Leonard R. Santore, Post 6303, Greensboro, Pennsylvania
    - District B—James H. McClenahan, Post 2859, Wood River, Illinois
    - District C—J. Mallory Loos, Post 16, Rochester, New York
    - District F—Angus R. MacLeod, Post 6782, East Detroit, Michigan
    - District G—Lloyd L. Lindquist, Post 3173, Anaheim, California
3. All previous appointments having expired are declared null and void.
4. The following appointments are hereby announced:
  - Adjutant General: Julian Dickenson, Post 1475, Amarillo, Texas
  - Chief of Staff: John T. Radko, Post 5267, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania
  - Inspector General: John A. Tynan, Post 864, Brookline, Massachusetts
  - Assistant Adjutant General and Executive Director, Washington Office: Cooper T. Holt, Post 1289, Chattanooga, Tennessee
  - Assistant Adjutant General, Administrative, and Buddy Poppy Director: Lowell J. Eastlund, Post 1782, White Bear Lake, Minnesota
  - Assistant Adjutant General, Programs: Curtis M. Jewell, Post 1090, Warren, Ohio
  - Assistant Adjutant General, Legal: Maurice H. Dwyer, Post 398, Kansas City, Missouri
  - Assistant Quartermaster General: Herbert W. Irwin, Post 5789, Lee's Summit, Missouri
  - Director, Public Relations and Publications, and Publisher, V.F.W. Magazine: John L. Smith, Post 1391, Racine, Wisconsin
  - Editor, V.F.W. Magazine: James K. Anderson, Post 1794, Mt. Clemens, Michigan
  - National Service Officer and Director, National Veterans Service: Norman D. Jones, Post 1650, Topeka, Kansas
  - Director, National Legislative Service: Francis W. Stover, Post 9274, Falls Church, Virginia
  - Director, National Security and Foreign Affairs: Anthony M. McDonald, Jr., Post 3150, Arlington, Virginia
  - National Historian: Elmer L. Jenkins, Post 1650, Topeka, Kansas
  - Director, Americanism and Loyalty: Raymond B. Edwards, Post 8220, Belton, Missouri
  - Director, Community Activities: H. R. Anderson, Post 866, Overland Park, Kansas
  - Director, Membership: Robert A. Lowe, Post 610, Sidney, Nebraska
  - Director, National Extension Service: E. H. Meeks, Post 2012, Abilene, Texas
  - Director, Safety: Charles D. Bishop, Post 9762, Kansas City, Missouri
  - Director, Voice of Democracy and Youth Activities: Edward L. Burnham, Post 1724, Willimantic, Connecticut
  - National Convention Director: Arthur J. Vater, Post 3254, Buffalo, New York
  - Director, Purchasing and Life Membership: George K. Bradford, Post 1829, Kansas City, Missouri
  - Director, Emblem and Supply Department: James L. Maloney, Post 869, Kansas City, Kansas
  - Director, General Services: William E. Rafner, Post 4242, Raytown, Missouri
  - Director, Insurance Programs: Wayne Rom, Post 6852, Des Moines, Iowa
  - Director, V.F.W. Properties—Kansas City: Roy Shedd, Post 846, Overland Park, Kansas
  - Director, V.F.W. Properties—Washington, D.C.: Wade H. Holland, Post 3147, LaCrosse, Kansas
  - Director, Washington News Bureau: Karl R. Edgerton, Post 1744, San Bernardino, California
  - National Sergeant-at-Arms: Leopold R. Malyszko, Post 1046, Brockton, Massachusetts
  - National Americanism Committee:
    - Chairman: Edward Papantonio, Post 271, Bronx, New York
    - Vice Chairmen: Ralph S. Altman, Post 9723, Naha, Okinawa;

- Thomas B. Dean, Post 2760, Gadsden, Alabama; Clyde H. Prouty, Post 791, Yankton, South Dakota; Paul E. Wampler, Jr., Post 833, Washington, D.C.
- National Band and Drum Corps Committee:
  - Chairman: Anton J. Schlehta, Post 6827, St. Petersburg, Florida
- National Buddy Poppy Committee:
  - Chairman: Joseph T. Gumo, Post 1582, Inwood, New York
  - Vice Chairmen: Billie L. Dorris, Post 3079, Mathis, Texas; W. F. Glassford, Post 1307, Elgin, Illinois; Robert S. Musser, Post 556, York, Pennsylvania; Frank G. Sigl, Post 67, Sacramento, California
- National Budget and Finance Committee:
  - Chairman: Clyde A. Lewis, Post 125, Plattsburgh, New York
  - Vice Chairman: Richard Homan, Post 9666, Sugar Grove, West Virginia
  - Members: Andy Borg, Post 847, Superior, Wisconsin; James W. Cothran, Post 3096, Bishopville, South Carolina; William J. Farley, Post 7654, Ashland, Pennsylvania; Ed J. Krennek, Post 8787, Austin, Texas; Lloyd L. Lindquist, Post 3173, Anaheim, California; James H. McClenahan, Post 2859, Wood River, Illinois
- National Civil Service and Employment Committee:
  - Chairman: J. P. Cockrill, Post 5225, West Memphis, Arkansas
  - Vice Chairmen: A. Leo Anderson, Post 833, Washington, D.C.; Alcuin G. Loehr, Post 4847, East St. Cloud, Minnesota; Arnold C. Muir, Post 3101, Columbia, South Carolina; Rudolph F. Otero, Post 5610, Espanola, New Mexico
- National Community Activities Committee:
  - Chairman: James L. Allen, Post 693, Canton, Ohio
  - Vice Chairmen: Lowell H. Norris, Post 8685, Juniata, Pennsylvania; John S. Staum, Post 9625, Coon Rapids, Minnesota; Weldon M. Talley, Post 6640, Metairie, Louisiana; William G. Updegrave, Post 7349, Kinsley, Kansas
- National Credentials Committee:
  - Chairman: James Buttram, Post 5146, Athens, Tennessee
  - Vice Chairmen: Peter N. Butsicaris, Post 5572, Allen Park, Michigan; Robert E. Combs, Post 9550, Springfield, Ohio; Darold D. DeCoe, Post 67, Sacramento, California; James H. Kennedy, Post 6690, Mendota, Minnesota; Raymond J. MacDonald, Post 2030, Hollis, New York; Juston M. Morrow, Post 5072, Rotan, Texas; Wilmer J. Ottinger, Post 6341, Royersford, Pennsylvania; Elwood B. Rickards, Post 7234, Ocean View, Delaware; Jake Tate, Jr., Post 8977, Danville, Virginia; Richard Trombla, Post 1174, El Dorado, Kansas; James H. Willis, Post 534, Joplin Missouri
- National Legislative Committee:
  - Chairman: James E. Van Zandt, Post 3, Altoona, Pennsylvania
  - Vice Chairmen: Ted C. Connell, Post 9192, Killeen, Texas; Robert E. Hansen, Post 295, South St. Paul, Minnesota; Charles C. Ralls, Post 2995, Bellevue, Washington; Heyman Rothbart, Post 310, New York, New York
- National Loyalty Committee:
  - Chairman: James G. Rosendahl, Post 762, Fargo, North Dakota
  - Vice Chairmen: William L. Breen, Post 1002, Fallon, Nevada; Sam R. Fruttoso, Post 1069, Fairfield, Ohio; Eugene R. Manfrey, Post 631, Warren, Pennsylvania; R. Frank Sprinkle, Post 6975, Bristol, Virginia
- National Safety Committee:
  - Chairman: Vernon A. Soukup, Post 8081, Warrenville, Illinois
  - Vice Chairmen: James B. Brown, Post 2539, Gulfport, Mississippi; William Goodman, Post 6921, Gary, Indiana; Edward W. Lewis, Post 1767, Winoski, Vermont; Glenn A. Phillips, Post 7137, Arco, Idaho
- National Security Committee:
  - Chairman: Ray Gallagher, Post 2755, Redfield, South Dakota
  - Vice Chairmen: Leslie M. Fry, Post 9211, Reno, Nevada; F. E. Hernandez, Post 3106, Leesville, Louisiana; Joseph A. Scerra, Post 905, Gardner, Massachusetts; Merton B. Tice, Post 2750, Mitchell, South Dakota
- National Voice of Democracy Committee:
  - Chairman: William J. Tepsic, Post 1810, Brentwood, Pennsylvania
  - Vice Chairmen: Frank N. Brown, Post 9362, Sun Prairie, Wisconsin; Len K. Mahler, Post 6296, Cookeville, Tennessee; Walter H. Marshall, Post 1116, Helena, Montana; Max Masow, Post 940, Revere, Massachusetts
- National Youth Activities Committee:
  - Chairman: J. W. "Bill" Cole, Post 2012, Abilene, Texas
  - Vice Chairmen: James R. Fawcett, Post 3081, Grafton, West Virginia; Gerald J. Miller, Post 3914, Charles City, Iowa; William P. Rizzuto, Post 594, Norwich, Connecticut; Eric Sandstrom, Post 969, Tacoma, Washington
- 5. THROUGH CHANNELS. Post Commanders, County Council Commanders and District Commanders are directed to forward all resolutions or communications relative to FEDERAL LEGISLATION OR TO THE POLICY OR PROCEDURE OF THE U.S. VETERANS ADMINISTRATION, OR ANY OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY, to their respective Department Headquarters for endorsement and referral to the Adjutant General. Department Commanders will not take direct action on any such resolutions or communications without first obtaining full knowledge of existing National Headquarters policies governing such legislation or agencies.
- 6. Invitations to National Officers must be forwarded through channels to the Adjutant General with approval of the Department Commander. This applies to all National Officers, and unless the above is complied with, invitations will not be given consideration.
- 7. DEPARTMENT RESERVE. Attention is called to Section 517, Manual of Procedure mandating Department Quartermasters to maintain a dues reserve fund to which shall be credited not less than fifty percent (50%) of all current year's (1972) dues that he receives prior to July 1, 1972. No Department Quartermaster shall disburse nor shall an obligation be incurred against this fund until after July 1, 1972, at which time all moneys to the credit of the fund shall be transferred to the Department general fund for expenditure in accordance with the Department budget.

(Continued on next page)



(Continued from last page)

8. **POST RESERVE** Attention is directed to Section 218, Manual of Procedure, which mandates Post Quartermasters to maintain a dues reserve fund to which shall be credited not less than one half of the Post's part of the current year's (1972) dues paid by each member prior to July 1, 1972, except dues remitted by the Post. No Post Quartermaster shall disburse, nor shall an obligation be incurred against this fund until after July 1, 1972, at which time it shall be transferred to the Post general fund and be available for expenditure.
9. Attention of Commanders at all levels is directed to Section 703 of the National Constitution and By-Laws and Manual of Procedure which requires that each accountable officer be bonded with an indemnity company in a sum at least equal to the amount of negotiable funds for which he may be accountable.
10. Attention of Post Commanders is directed to Section 218, Manual of Procedure, Duty of Trustees, which states that Post Trustees shall prepare and submit, through their Post Commander, a Trustee Report of Audit (Form P-113) quarterly to the Department Quartermaster for referral to National Headquarters. Such report is due at the close of September.
11. Posts that have failed to submit a Report of Election form, listing officers for 1971-72, should immediately forward such a report to Department and National Headquarters for matter of record so that mailings can be made to the proper officers of each Post.
12. Attention of Department and Post Commanders is directed to the requirement that you file a copy of Internal Revenue Form 990 on or prior to November 15, 1971, for the period of June 1, 1970 through May 31, 1971. Form 990 may be secured from your local Post Office or branch offices of Internal Revenue Service.
13. All National Aides-de-Camp, Congressional Medal of Honor Class, who held appointment prior to August 20, 1971, will be reappointed promptly upon notification by Department Quartermasters that such aides are members in good standing.
14. All members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States who have been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor are eligible to appointment as Aides-de-Camp to the Commander-in-Chief, Congressional Medal of Honor Class. Post Commanders will report such members to their Department Commanders for recommendation and referral to the Commander-in-Chief.
15. Posts are urged to start planning suitable programs now for the observance of Veterans' Day, October 25, 1971 (See Section 223, Manual of Procedure).
16. Announcement is made of the National Council of Administration meeting to be held in Kansas City, Missouri, October 4, 1971.
17. Announcement is made of the Conference of Department Adjutants and Quartermasters, which will be held in Kansas City, Missouri, October 5-6, 1971.
18. Announcement is made of the consolidation of Fidelity-Sterling Post No. 97, San Francisco, California, and Howard C. Sperry Post No. 3570, San Francisco, California; the consolidated Post

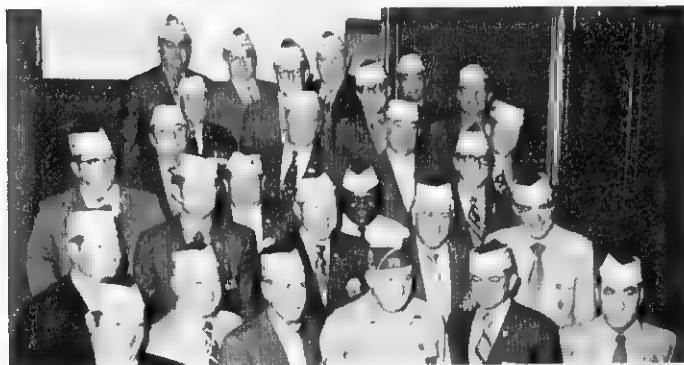
to be known as Howard C. Sperry Post No. 3570, San Francisco, California.

19. Announcement is made of the consolidation of Lt. Bert A. Allen Post No. 2415, Point Loma, San Diego, California, and Pacific Beach Post No. 5985, San Diego, California; the consolidated Post to be known as Pacific Beach Post No. 5985, San Diego, California.
  20. Announcement is made of the consolidation of Gresham Post No. 4032, Gresham, Oregon, and Rooster Rock Post No. 7384, Corbett, Oregon; the consolidated Post to be known as Gresham-Corbett Post No. 4032, Gresham, Oregon.
  21. Announcement is made of the consolidation of David Sherman Post No. 713, Westmont, New Jersey, and Cherry Hill Memorial Post No. 10182, Cherry Hill, New Jersey; the consolidated Post to be known as David Sherman Post No. 713, Westmont, New Jersey.
  22. Announcement is made of the consolidation of Lt. Francis Christensen Post No. 6948, Oxnard, California, and Lt. Wonnies Wood Post No. 3935, Port Hueneme, California; the consolidated Post is to be known as Lt. Wonnies Wood Post No. 3935, Port Hueneme, California.
  23. Announcement is made of the change of location of the following Posts, in accordance with Section 206 of the National By-Laws:  
McDonald-Linn Post No. 5416 from Township of Stickney, Illinois, to Burbank, Illinois.  
Alamance Post No. 1920 from Burlington, North Carolina, to Haw River, North Carolina.
  24. Announcement is made of the issuance of charter, dated August 4, 1971, to Dodge County Council, Department of Wisconsin, comprising of the Posts in Dodge County.
  25. Announcement is made of the authorization of charters for the following Posts:
- |                                 |                                    |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| No. 180 Fairview Park, Ohio     | No. 5127 Bearden, Tenn             |
| No. 184 Stewartsville, N.J.     | No. 5148 Sherwood, Tenn.           |
| No. 570 Tonawanda, N.Y.         | No. 5876 Ladonia, Texas            |
| No. 1009 Country C. Hills, Ill. | No. 6012 San Antonio, Texas        |
| No. 2137 Azle, Texas            | No. 6214 Ash Flat, Arkansas        |
| No. 2942 Eatontown, N.J.        | No. 6758 Ozark, Missouri           |
| No. 3957 Monroe, Oregon         | No. 7627 Mansfield, Missouri       |
| No. 4381 Annapolis, Missouri    | No. 10021 Huntsville, Ark.         |
| No. 4400 Eleanor, W. Va.        | No. 10071 Atlantic Highlands, N.J. |
| No. 4539 Viburnum, Missouri     | No. 10149 Delray Beach, Fla        |
| No. 4541 Mount Vernon, Mo.      | No. 10239 Saigon, Vietnam          |
| No. 4593 Republic, Missouri     | No. 10240 Terryville, Conn.        |
| No. 4610 Milan, Missouri        | No. 10241 Fairbanks, Alaska        |
| No. 4720 Princeton, Missouri    | No. 10242 Yarnell, Arizona         |
| No. 5116 Sunbright, Tenn.       |                                    |
| No. 5123 Spring City, Tenn.     |                                    |

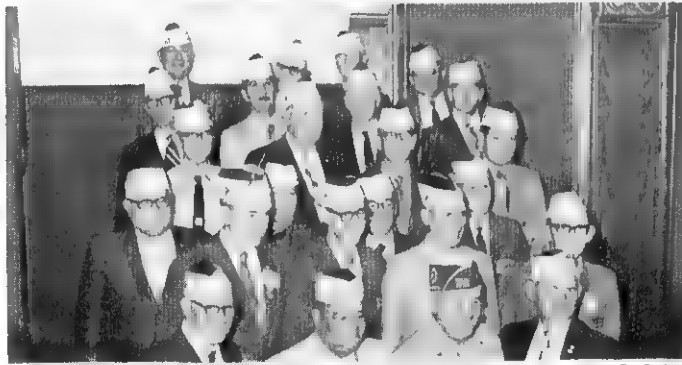
Official:  
**JULIAN DICKENSON**  
Adjutant General

By Command of:  
**JOSEPH L. VICITES**  
Commander-in-Chief

## Honored For V.F.W. Achievements



**ALL-AMERICAN DEPT. COMMANDERS:** 1st row (L-R) Donald A. Woolard, Ohio; Clifford T. Teer (back of Woolard), Texas; Richard T. Lawler, Mass.; Robert L. Harrison, Mich.; Commander-in-Chief H. R. Rainwater; Harry A. Laderbush, N. H.; Daniel H. Pleitner, Md. 2nd row (L-R) Charles D. Godke, N. D.; William P. Beane, Okla.; Robert L. Filler, Mo.; Glenn A. Phillips, Idaho; John E. Travers, Pacific; Lavern F. Fenton, N. Y.; Ronald G. Tyler, Sr., Pa.; Frank E. Lightowler, R. I. 3rd row (L-R) Norman G. Staab, Kans.; Vernon Soukup, Ill.; John S. Etsinger, Ind.; John S. Staum, Minn. 4th row (L-R) L. M. Van Winkle, Fla.; James L. Allgood, Ala.; Ogie D. Hayes, Ga.; Albert D. Hall, Ark. 5th row (L-R) Robert A. Pearson, Tenn.; A. Leo Anderson, D. C.; Thomas F. Killian, Conn.; Joseph A. Borello, Calif. Not shown: Curtis A. Smith, Va.



**ALL-AMERICAN DIST. COMMANDERS:** 1st row (L-R) William F. Woolsey, 5, Colo.; Stanley G. Powell, 1, Conn.; Commander-in-Chief H. R. Rainwater; Kenneth Steele, 5, Calif. 2nd row (L-R) Wesley B. Altwies, 2, Wis.; Leo Reller, 8, Ind.; Raymond L. Criss, 6, Wash.; Glen Cashman, 1, Kan. 3rd row (L-R) R. M. Allen, 3, Texas; Guy Taylor, 9, Okla.; Jacob B. Brewer, 11, Ohio; Beverly C. Kenney, W. Va. 4th row (L-R) Henry Schindele, 6, Minn.; A. G. Phillips, 2, Ala.; William R. Tasonyi, 10, Pa.; Bobby Locklear, 8, N. C. 5th row (L-R) Robert W. Peters, 4, Md.; John J. Buglino, 2, N. J.; Domenick A. Volpe, 1, N. Y.; Harold L. Barrett, 9, Ga. 6th row (L-R) Orville Harvey, 12, Ill.; John Sloan, 5, Mass.; Joseph Genessee, 5, Fla.; Eric Halvorsen, 9, Mich.



**ALL-AMERICAN POST COMMANDERS:** 1st row (L-R) Henry Fontcuberta, Post 6640, La.; James Ashmore, Post 1308, Ill.; Commander-in-Chief H. R. Rainwater; Charles Adams, Post 1114, Ind.; George D. Kallas, Post 733, Iowa; Ralph Altman, Post 9723, Okinawa. 2nd row (L-R) H. O. Higginbotham, Post 5225, Ark.; Glenn A. Sprenger, Post 3838, Mo.; Ralph Johnston, Post 1296, Minn.; Michael R. Hume, Post 969, Wash.; Ralph G. Booher, Post 6975, Va.; Robert Weiss, Post 9103, N. C. 3rd row (L-R) Carl D. Jansen, Post 1273, S. Dak.; Olan H. Layman, Post 573, W. Va.; Arthur Schrader, Post 4087, Mich.; Lee Fisk, Post 6240, Kans.; Bobby T. Bolton, Post 924, Ala.; Earl Gray, Post 495, Ohio. Not shown: William McGurk, Sr., Post 5447, Del.; Roland D. McRae, Post 9862, Md.; William Arthur Triplett, Post 2539, Miss.; Robert M. Murphy, Post 10047, Nev.; Edward Tucker, Post 9969, Okla.; W. T. Evans, Post 4372, Texas.

# Nixon Praises

Dear Commander Rainwater:

The opportunity to come to Dallas for the Veterans of Foreign Wars Convention on August 19 was a most welcome one. It was a pleasure to be with you on that occasion, and I wanted to get this note off to thank you once again for your generous introduction and gracious hospitality during our visit.

As I said in Dallas, I have valued your expressions of confidence, both in private and publicly, during these past months and I shall continue to enlist your views, together with those of your distinguished colleagues on these matters which so vitally affect our national interest.

With warm regards and best wishes,

Sincerely,

Richard Nixon

# Quest

(Continued from page 41)

standing of the principles which guided him in his quest for peace, security and justice in the world.

Between those principles of the Eisenhower years and the principles President Nixon is following in foreign policy today, there is marked continuity. President Nixon bases his foreign policy on the three pillars of partnership, strength and willingness to negotiate. I think it clear that these sum up the principles which guided President Eisenhower.

The goals we pursue and the principles which guide us are unchanged, but the contest in which the principles are applied is not the same. The world of the 1970's is far different from the world of the 1950's and the 1960's. And the changes in the world require new policies for the 1970's.

In his last State of the Union Message in 1961, President Eisenhower recognized that changed circumstances in the future would dictate changes of policy. "New tactics," he said, "will have to be developed . . . to meet new situations, but the underlying principles should be constant." For this reason, President Nixon has been adopting new means to achieve goals we have long been pursuing—means which are more appropriate in today's circumstances.

In our relations with our allies, for example, the President has changed policy to encourage greater self-reliance on the part of nations which formerly depended on us, entirely or in major part, for their defense.

Nations which in the past have been junior partners in our alliances are becoming full-fledged partners. This policy change means a new division of labor between us and our allies. It does not imply that our goal of deterring aggression has been abandoned or modified or has become less important now than it was when we stood almost alone as the defender of many parts of the world.

In our relations with adversary  
(Continued on next page)

## CONVENTION PICTURES CAN BE ORDERED

Convention pictures (8 x 10) appearing in this can be obtained from Central Studios, 2314 Artic Ave., Atlantic City, N. J. 08401 for \$3.25 each. Use code numbers after captions.



The first place Community Activities award is presented by Commander-in-Chief H. R. Rainwater (C) in photo at left to Henry L. Williams, Jr., (L) and Mrs. Elva Grills of V.F.W. Post 3382 and Auxiliary, Kingsport, Tenn. Second place award is received by Joseph M. Moroney Jr., (L) and Jane A. Marifiote (R) of Post 6800 and Auxiliary, Somerville, Mass., from Rainwater in photo at right.



Third place Community Activities award is received by George Wolschon (L) and Mrs. Wolschon of Post 1146 and Auxiliary, St. Clair Shores, Mich., from Rainwater in photo at left. First place winners in Youth Activities are presented awards by Rainwater in photo at right. From left: Monroe Thomas, Post 8911, Ft. Worth, Texas; Joseph W. Hill, Dept. of N. J.; Rainwater and T. Heywood Branch, Dist. 4, Va.



First place awards for Loyalty Day are presented by Rainwater in photo at left. From left: Homer C. Wain, Allegheny County (Pa.) Council; Charles E. Wall, Post 4343, Cheyenne, Wyo.; Rainwater, Dominic J. Romano, Dept. of Conn., and Bernard Parkos, Dist. 1, Minn. Winning first in Americanism and receiving awards from Rainwater (C) were, in photo at right, Ralph Bateman (L), Dept. of Wyo., and Calvin Dyke, Dept. of Ohio.





*(Continued from last page)*

nations, we are moving more and more from confrontation to negotiation. In the long view of history, this transition in the dominant method of dealing with conflict may well be the most notable change in the field of international relations in our lifetime. It does not, however, imply a change in our foreign policy goals.

This development has an important element of continuity with the Eisenhower years. Despite serious confrontation and persistent turbulence in the international atmosphere, President Eisenhower constantly sought to negotiate. Many of the Eisenhower initiatives bore no immediate fruit. Some, like his proposal to curb nuclear testing, came to fruition after he left office. Others, seeking arms limitation and the removal of the Iron Curtain across Europe, were met with flat rejection.

Yet, much was gained by this process of constant probing to determine how far it was possible to go to reduce tension and resolve conflict by negotiation. It was Ike who concluded the treaty that brought about the removal of Soviet forces from Austria and assured the independence and freedom of that part of central Europe. It was Ike who concluded the treaty to guarantee the peaceful use of Antarctica. It was Ike who made the Atoms for Peace proposal that resulted in the creation of the International Atomic Energy Agency that turned the world toward the development of this new source of energy to enrich human life rather than to destroy it.

It was Dwight Eisenhower who initiated continuing negotiations with mainland China seventeen years ago through talks between diplomats of the two nations in Geneva and later in Warsaw. These talks exemplified the eagerness of the Eisenhower Administration to settle differences by negotiation and to open up nations which locked their doors and kept their shutters drawn against the outside world.

Today we are well into an era of negotiation. At no other time in history have we been engaged in so many negotiations in so many places about so many problems. And this has happened because the Nixon Administration has launched a vigorous quest for agreement on a great range of issues that threaten peace and se-

curity.

Because we have negotiated patiently and skillfully, the guns have been silent in the Middle East for the past year. Because we have negotiated patiently and skillfully, there is a treaty before the Senate to prevent the establishment of arsenals in the world's seabeds. There is promise of agreement between our country and the Soviet Union to establish limits on both offensive and defensive strategic weapons. We continue to seek an agreement that will increase the security of Berlin. We are preparing, along with our NATO partners, to discuss mutual and balanced reduction of military forces in Europe. We have not given up the effort to end the Vietnam war by agreement in Paris, as the designation of Ambassador Porter as the new chief negotiator for those talks indicates. And, our President will go to Peking, consistent with his long-standing objective of seeking peace and security in Asia.

This list includes some bold initiatives. They are being taken by a President who is thoroughly familiar with the lessons of history, who has carefully plumbed the depths of every pitfall that lies along the course he is pursuing, and who is determined to leave nothing undone that may speed the coming of a generation of peace.

He will not repeat the mistakes that have sometimes flawed our negotiations in the past. He will not rush into negotiation without adequate preparation. He will not be deluded by words that paper over disagreement on substance. He will not make premature or unilateral concessions. He will not conclude agreements that weaken our security. He will not bargain away the right of any other people. He will not abandon any friend.

We negotiate in order to increase the chances that our nation and the world will know more peace, more security, more justice than in the past. Any agreements that we conclude must move us toward these goals. There will be no agreements that contravene these purposes.

To succeed in negotiation, we must be strong.

Strength is an inducement to negotiation. It makes resort to force too costly a method of resolving disputes and thereby narrows the range of alternatives to negotiation.

Strength enables a nation to

achieve equity through the process of negotiation. A strong nation is not in the position of a suppliant at the bargaining table.

When the subject of negotiation is limitation of military power, we must recognize that it is foolhardy, in advance of agreement, to reduce needed strength or abandon plans for maintaining it. If we disarm unilaterally, we weaken our bargaining power. If we disarm unilaterally, an adversary nation may well conclude that negotiating with us on the subject of arms limitation is unnecessary.

Let there be no misunderstanding about this point. The negotiations that go on today occur because our country, in partnership with our friends, is strong. Any undermining of our strength would diminish the prospects for negotiating tolerable solutions to the critical problems of the world.

As long as the strength we need is maintained, we can enter into negotiation without fear and with reasonable hope of an outcome that will take us closer to genuine peace.

If we fail to remain strong in the years ahead, our failure can have tragic consequences.

Maintaining our strength—moral, economic, and military—is a job which no President, no Secretary of Defense, no other Cabinet officer can do without wholehearted support from Congress and the people. That support needs vigorous reaffirmation today, particularly to combat the persistent pressures toward erosion of our military power.

There are some in public life who constantly attack the military profession and seek ever more drastic reductions in our forces and their capabilities, and I worry about them. But I worry more about those who appear to be indifferent and unconcerned about the maintenance of the nation's strength.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars has always helped to keep the nation strong. That help is needed now, for there has been no time in our recent history when our opportunity to achieve durable peace has been more promising if we remain strong and no time when the risks of weakness have been more serious.

In this era of negotiation—fraught with opportunity and risk—I look to you to help keep the nation on a course that offers our best hope of achieving for mankind peace, security and justice. ■

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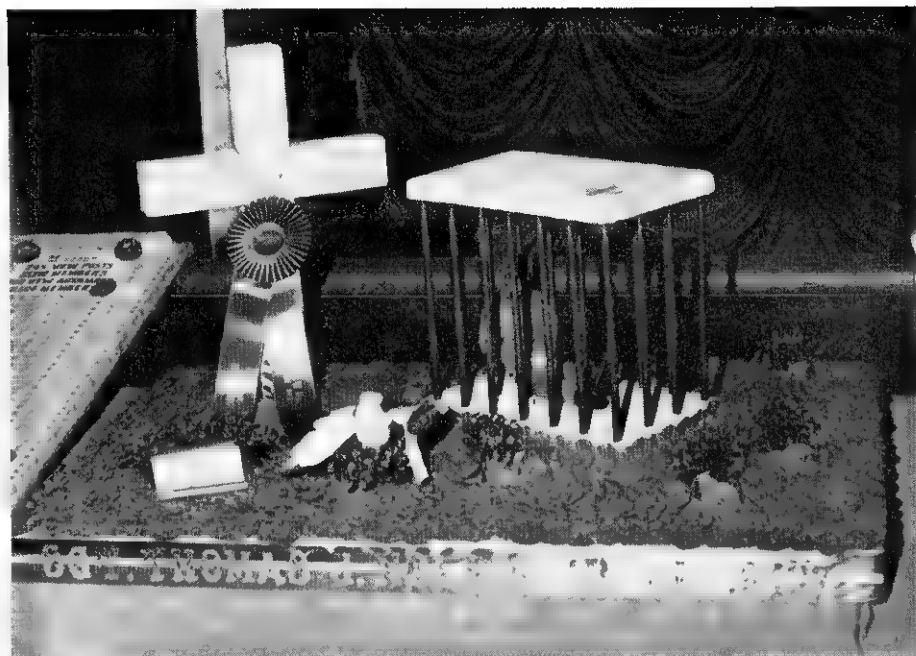
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Winning first place honors in Category 3 for artistic or decorative use of Poppies was this entry of Post 9427 and Auxiliary, Fairfield, Conn. The winning entry in Category 1 for public promotions of Poppy Sales made by Post 3851 and Auxiliary, Carmi, Ill., is not shown.

## Poppy Displays Are Winners

The talent and ingenuity of V.F.W. members were on exhibit during the 1970-71 Buddy Poppy Display Contest held during the 72nd annual V.F.W. National Convention in Dallas, Texas.

Many creative uses were shown in making displays which catch the eye and promote the sale of Buddy Poppies.

Following are the results of the contest:

Category 1, public promotion of Poppy sales (window, booth, parade or Post displays, sales promotions, etc.)—First, Post 3851 and Auxiliary, Carmi, Ill.; second, Post 3922 and Auxiliary, Wadena, Ill.; third, Post 6874 and Auxiliary, San Diego, Calif.

Category 2 for memorial or inspirational displays (wreaths, memorial tablets or plaques, patriotic or devotional themes)—First place, Post 4562 and Auxiliary, Texarkana, Ark.; second, Post 8911 and Auxiliary, Ft. Worth, Texas; third, Post 4847 and Auxiliary, East St. Cloud, Minn.

Category 3 for artistic or decorative use of Poppies (Post home displays, table centerpieces, corsages, pictures, plaques, models, scenes, hats, novelty pieces, etc.)—First, Post 9427 and Auxiliary, Fairfield, Conn.; second, Dept. of South Carolina and Auxiliary;

third, Post 1912 and Auxiliary, West Allis, Wis.

Receiving honorable mentions for displays entered in the contest were: Post 217 and Auxiliary, Minneapolis, Minn.; Post 9168 and Auxiliary, Lewisville, Texas; Post 2801 and Auxiliary, Villa Park, Ill.; Post 8141 and Auxiliary, Calumet City, Ill.; Post 7307 and Auxiliary, Marrero, La., and Junior Auxiliary 5718, Coral Gables, Fla.

First place honors in Category 2 for memorial or inspirational displays went to this display of Post 4562 and Auxiliary, Texarkana, Ark.





# Freedom

(Continued from page 17)

mean people who are ready and willing to speak out for the American way of life, in good times and bad, and to defend it against its enemies whether they be foreign or domestic." (See page 31 for details.)

McKeithen said protestors should go elsewhere with their complaints if they find life in the United States so unbearable. "People who complain about America should try it some place else... There's no dissent in Cuba, North Vietnam or China. They've all been murdered. There's none in Russia. They're all in Siberia... Anyone who walks in a parade with the flag of the enemy or burns his draft card ought to be sent to that great haven of rest, East Berlin, and in a few months he will be begging to come back and we'll probably let him."

In accepting his award from Rainwater, Coray said of the USO "I don't know of any other country in the world that has this type of organization or has the concern for the morale and well being of troops on active duty that the United States does." He cited the V.F.W. and several professional entertainment groups for praise for their cooperation with the USO.

In the afternoon some 10,000 delegates, their wives and families gathered at the Arena to hear President Nixon set forth the "quest for peace as the challenge of the 70s."

On his economic reforms, Nixon asked that the nation's veterans be willing to forego raises or dividends for awhile since this benefits the nation as a whole. (See page 12 for details.)

Friday, Aug. 20

The final day of the Convention was taken up with elections of officers for the 1971-72 membership year.

Elected Commander-in-Chief was Joseph L. Vicites, of Uniontown, Pa., chosen Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief at the 71st National Convention in Miami Beach, Fla., and Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief at the 70th National Convention in Philadelphia, Pa. He succeeds H. R. Rainwater.

As Vicites' successor in the office of Senior Vice Commander-in-

Chief the delegates elected Patrick E. Carr, of Metairie, La., who was elected as Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief at the 71st National Convention in Miami Beach.

Ray R. Soden, of Oak Park, Ill., was elected Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief.

Re-elected Quartermaster General was J. A. Cheatham.

Other officers elected were John Stang, of LaCrosse, Kans., Judge Advocate General; Dr. Robert J. Meehan, of Rockland, Me., Surgeon General, and the Rev. Charles H. Carpenter, of Shawboro, N.C., National Chaplain.

Reappointed Adjutant General was Julian Dickenson. Other national appointments included John T. Radko, of Wilkes Barre, Pa., as Chief of Staff, and John A. Tynan, of Brookline, Mass., Inspector General.

In his acceptance speech Vicites urged that the organization devote more attention to domestic problems, press for liberalized veterans benefits and emphasize the needs of Vietnam veterans. (See page 18 for details.)

In the evening the annual Inauguration Ball was held.

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## Drugs, Unemployment Problems Studied

**D**RUG usage among servicemen and the problem of finding jobs for returning veterans were thoroughly examined by V.F.W. Service Officers who attended the annual two-day National Conference which preceded the 1971 V.F.W. National Convention in Dallas, Texas.

Held Aug. 13-14, they heard experts discuss what the government is doing concerning the drug abuse problem and unemployment among veterans. In addition, they received vital information about new rules and regulations concerning veterans benefits.

Harry McKnight of the Veterans Administration's Alcohol and Drug Dependence Service outlined the magnitude of the drug problem and the plans the VA has for combatting it.

Drug usage is a serious problem not only for the military but for the entire American society, he told the group.

McKnight said the VA has experienced a 20-fold increase in the number of veterans being treated for drug usage since 1968.

He reported that the problem will continue to grow. "We really don't know or have any hard figures on the number of drug users in the military or among civilians today."

However, he said that estimates run between 125,000 to 260,000 among the American population and that between 5 to 5½% of the servicemen in Vietnam are drug users.

"This means that if 30,000 servicemen are being returned each month from Vietnam, 1,500 have a drug problem," McKnight said.

"The VA realizes it is faced with a serious problem," he continued. "Last October we opened our first drug treatment center and have since started four more. By this October the VA will have put into operation 32 such centers that will be scattered throughout the United States."

McKnight also reported that centers which had been contemplated for opening during the 1973 budget year had been moved up in order to handle the rapidly increasing number of drug treatment cases.

The military is cooperating with the VA in the treatment program, McKnight said. Servicemen detected in Vietnam as having a drug problem are being "detoxified" there, then flown to military hospitals in the U.S. and referred to the nearest VA drug treatment center.

U.S. Civil Service Commissioner L. J. Andolsek also addressed the group and discussed unemployment among returning Vietnam veterans.

"One of the roadblocks in the way of Vietnam veterans finding jobs is connected with an unfortunate amount of bad publicity, he said. "More than one Vietnam vet has reported that employers seemed to shy away from him because they had read and heard so much about drug addiction among veterans. They figure any veteran coming out of service may be an addict."

Andolsek pointed out that of the over 5 million Vietnam-era veterans back in civilian life, less than 1% are drug users.

"While I grant you that any percentage is too much," he said, "that figure of less than one out of a hundred helps to put the whole picture in perspective. There is no justification for any feeling by employers that they have to be extra careful, or they may be taking a chance, when they employ Vietnam veterans."

Andolsek predicted that "this attitude will die out and disappear when more employers have experience with hiring returning veterans and find they can really do a job."

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He noted that "in a generation that sometimes seems to have forgotten the virtues of hard work, the veteran is often the exception. He knows he has to make up time and he is willing to work hard to do it."

Andolsek called upon the V.F.W. to help solve the unemployment problem. "Every member of your organization can help to break down and overcome this prejudice by making himself an active missionary on behalf of Vietnam veterans," he said. "Let it be known that these returning veterans are men—matured beyond their years, serious and anxious to further their own careers by making a success of civilian life."

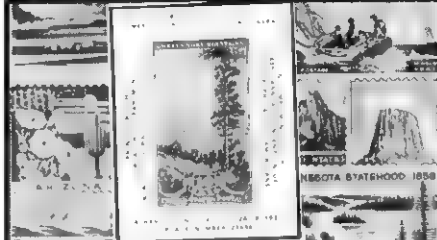
The two-day session was moderated by Norman Jones, V.F.W. National Veterans Service Director.

Among the many experts to speak were several VA officials who outlined the medical and health programs of the VA. They were: Dr. John D. Chase, Associate Chief Medical Director, Dr. Paul A. L. Haber, Assistant Chief Medical Director; A. W. Farmer, Executive Director for Administration, and Marjorie R. Quandt, Director,

Medical Administrative Service. Veterans benefits were discussed by J. C. Peckarsky, Deputy Chief Benefits Director; John G. Miller, Contact and Administrative Service Director and John M. Dervan, Loan Guaranty Service Director.

Veterans legislation was discussed by Francis W. Stover, Director, V.F.W. National Legislative Service.

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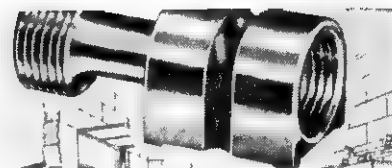


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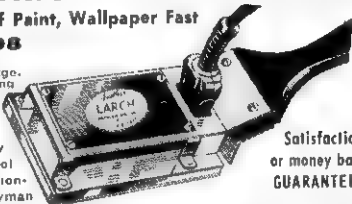
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## Citadel

(Continued from page 35)

important.' But she worked hard anyway. No one could ask for any more than she set before us. Not only in tangible things, either.

"She was very religious and she taught us religion. And she disciplined us properly. When she couldn't handle me, she would send for one of my uncles. That took care of me.

"When I was in the Army I had dependency allowances sent home. I knew that she needed the money. She still had my teenage sister to care for.

"But, after I returned home in early 1946, she went to a drawer and took out an envelope. That envelope contained every penny she had been sent. She hadn't spent anything—that's the kind of Mom I had.

"Here, it belongs to you,' she told me.

"Mom was proud of me when I joined the V.F.W. When I was elected Post Commander in 1951, she thought that was just about the greatest thing. And it was—for me and for Mom.

"But there was sadness then, too. She died that year. My first year as Post Commander. I wish she could have been present to see me become Commander-in-Chief. She knew my feelings about the V.F.W."

Vicites remembers his boyhood as being happy and active. He played basketball and was a member of the track and cross-country teams at Uniontown Joint Senior High School.

In March of 1943 he entered the Army. After training in the United States, he became a member of the 559th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion, which was attached to the 84th Infantry Division—the "Railsplitters."

Vicites and his unit landed in Normandy at the time of the breakout from St. Lo. The men of the 559th fought with the Third, Seventh and Ninth Armies, taking part in the Battle of the Bulge and crossing the Ruhr and Rhine Rivers. Although he was a wire communications section leader, the future V.F.W. leader found himself using a rifle as an infantryman on many occasions during the advance

into and across West Germany to the Elbe River.

The battalion stayed on in Germany and Belgium after V-E Day and Vicites finally returned to the United States in January, 1946.

Vicites said he joined the V.F.W. because "I was impressed by its youth activities and sports programs."

Soon he became active in those programs—as chairman of the Youth and Athletic Committees. He was chairman of the Teener Baseball Committee in 1959 when the Uniontown Post team won the national championship.

Vicites also became deeply involved in the veterans service and community service activities of the Post. He was elected Junior Vice-Commander in 1949, an event which was followed by a steady progression to the highest office in the V.F.W.

V.F.W. work also led the new Commander-in-Chief to his wife, Dolores. They met at a Polio Fund benefit dance sponsored by the Post. Dolores, a Uniontown dancing teacher, was an entertainer in the show put on with the dance.

Joe and Dolores have two youngsters. Debbie, who will be 19 in December, is a sophomore at West Virginia University. Vincent, 11, is a sixth grader in Uniontown.

In 1967, Joe left his position as a salesman to enter public life as the Clerk of Courts in Fayette County, Pa.

In addition to the V.F.W., he has been active in many areas of community life in Uniontown and throughout southwestern Pennsylvania. He was Young Man of the Year of the Chamber of Commerce and he headed a fund drive to support programs for retarded children. He also has helped in the leadership of the March of Dimes, American Cancer Society, Heart Fund and USO drives in his city of 15,000.

In the V.F.W., Joe progressed to the position of Commander of the Department of Pennsylvania in 1965. The following year he entered the national scene as vice chairman of the 1966-67 Loyalty Day Committee. He served on the National Council of Administration from 1967 to 1969 and, at the same time, was a member of the National Budget and Finance Committee.

In August, 1969, Vicites was elected Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief. He became Senior Vice

V.F.W. MAGAZINE



Commander-in-Chief at the 71st National Convention at Miami Beach, Fla., in 1970.

At the 72nd National Convention at Dallas, Texas, in August, Vicites was elected Commander-in-Chief.

Joe Vicites is determined that he is going to continue to sell the V.F.W.

"We have the greatest potential of any organization in the United States," he said. "We are going to continue to grow—just as long as we continue to stand up and speak out, just as long as our Posts remain citadels of patriotism in America."

The veteran of the Vietnam conflict is going to represent an important part of Joe's program.

"The V.F.W. is the organization for the Vietnam veteran. We are working hard to help him—to find him a job if he is unemployed; to find him a better job as soon as he is qualified.

"We will help him if he has a dope problem. We will assist him in every way we can.

"We want him to join and, more important, to become involved in the V.F.W. We want to make use

of his fresh ideas and his enormous energy. And we will all gain from the association.

"We have more to offer the Vietnam veteran and we are going to extend that offer in person, just as often as we can."

Vicites said he plans to spend most of his term traveling throughout the United States.

"If I'm invited, I hope to visit every one of our Departments at least once. And I want to be where I'm needed when I'm needed, at the state capitals and at the nation's capital.

"This is going to be the greatest year of my life. There is no prouder feeling than when I wear the Cross of Malta. This year, I shall wear the Cross of Malta in every section, every corner of my country."



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## Goals

(Continued from page 19)

I say to you, my comrades: If this great nation can finance the governmental luxuries of half the nations of the world, subsidize private industry and individuals, we can and should generously assist those who fight and die to save it.

We shall insist upon every governmental agency honoring veterans preference in employment. It is the legal duty of the U.S. Civil Service Commission to enforce veterans preference in Civil Service, and to halt the practice of federal agencies using devious methods to avoid compliance with those laws. I shall personally ask the President of the United States to once again exert his own personal leadership to expand the Public Service Job program in order that more veterans may obtain employment.

We shall contact the offices of public employment service on every level of our organization, and insist that they do everything within the law to give veteran job applicants preference in job referrals.

One of the most disturbing developments in recent years has been the cut of 7,000 in the daily patient load of the VA hospital system which was ordered by the Office of Management and Budget last January.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars, under the leadership of then Commander-in-Chief Rainwater, vigorously opposed this threat. As a result, the Congress added sufficient funds to keep the patient load at its previous level of 86,000. But by the first of July, the VA hospital system had been cut below 79,000 patients as a result of the Budget Office action. We shall demand that the patient load be increased to its previous level, or even higher if necessary, to meet the demands for treatment.

We shall also call for an expansion of the drug treatment program; utilization of clinically accepted new surgical procedures; and the installation and expansion of all new medical programs in a sufficient number of hospitals to

insure their availability to veterans wherever they may reside.

We shall remain constantly alert for any sign of further attacks on the VA hospital system and oppose them wherever found.

A veteran's military service and character of his discharge are the only criteria which should be considered when a non-service connected illness impels him to seek outpatient care. As we approach the era of universal health care for the general public, Congress should remove all other requirements for the treatment of veterans by the Veterans Administration in any program.

In recent years funds to construct additional new and replacement hospitals have been drastically reduced. The 15-year program for modernization of existing facilities which was adopted after the 1958 V.F.W. investigation has never been properly financed. Physical decay continues to take its shocking toll. Much needed air conditioning has been repeatedly delayed.

We shall pursue our goal for complete modernization of veterans hospitals with renewed vigor. Sufficient funds to carry out this program and to expedite the construction of new facilities is of paramount importance to the veterans of America. And time is of the essence.

In the past we have been faced by a number of attempts to dismember the Veterans Administration, and to transfer veterans programs to other federal agencies. The Department of HEW would love to grab the VA Loan program. Social Security stands ready to swallow up the VA Compensation and Pension programs.

We shall continue to insist that the Veterans Administration be maintained intact—as the one organization with sole responsibility for the administration of veterans programs.

Add to these goals an increase in the pay rates for active military service and an equitable adjustment of military retirement pensions consistent with active military pay, and you have at least a partial list of the many-pronged campaign which lies ahead of us.

I urge you now to join with me in making these our primary interests and objectives during my tenure as Commander-in-Chief. Certainly we can do no less for the men and women who fight this nation's wars. ■



# Stockholders'

(Continued from page 30)

On the staffing ratio he said:

"I can report to you today that in the last six weeks of fiscal 1971 the VA hired more than 8,600 hospital and medical care employees, including more than 800 very scarce category physicians, more than 50 dentists and nearly 1,900 nurses.

"With these additional, valued employees and with our record high fiscal 1972 budget, we will achieve the desired one to one staffing ratio in our psychiatric hospitals and near our goal of two to one staffing ratios in our hospitals."

Johnson pledged that further improvements will be made in the VA hospital system.

On the Vietnam veterans' employment problems, Johnson said the efforts of the V.F.W., the VA and other members of the Jobs for Veterans Committee "are beginning to pay off."

He cited Department of Labor statistics showing the number of jobless Vietnam veterans had fallen to 309,000 in the second quarter of 1971, as compared with 372,000 in the first quarter.

"And this number should drop as the Emergency Employment Act, which is funded for \$1 billion and which provides that special consideration for public service jobs be given veterans who served in Indochina or Korea on or after Aug. 5, 1964, takes hold."

While the VA has shared responsibilities with other governmental agencies in some areas which include veterans, such as drug addiction, Johnson said that as long as he is VA administrator these "shared responsibilities" will never be "the prelude to the dissolution" of the VA.

Johnson attacked critics of American troops in Vietnam who assert that Vietnam veterans are "confirmed, trained killers" who have become narcotic addicts through boredom.

"They are not talking about nameless, faceless strangers," he said. "They are talking about your son and mine and about thousands of your fellow V.F.W. members.

"As far as I am concerned no one no matter how uninformed, how misled or how fearful he may be is

going to be allowed to get away with this kind of character assassination.

"The immediate practical result of eradicating the untrue and unfair stigma that surrounds our Vietnam veterans will be to enhance their chances of finding jobs. And let's face it, hopheads, whether for real or just in an employer's mind, are not very much in demand as employees.

"The greater victory, of course, will be to win back for these courageous American patriots their good name and to give them the pride and prestige and satisfaction that the title 'veteran' has given us."

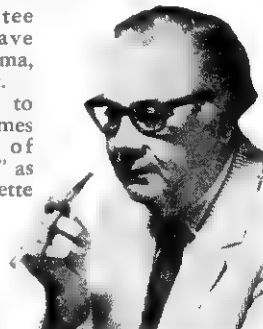
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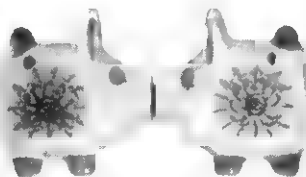
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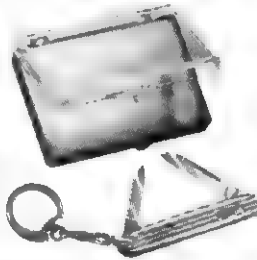
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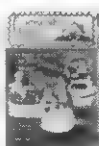
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## Biographies Of New Senior and Junior Commanders-in-Chief

**A** FORMER prisoner of war who spent nine months in a Nazi prison camp, Patrick E. Carr, a Metairie, La., attorney, is the V.F.W.'s newly elected Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief.

He was chosen for that post at the 72nd National Convention held in Dallas, Texas, from Aug. 13 to 20. He had been elected Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief at the 71st National Convention in Miami Beach, Fla.

After enlisting in the service in June, 1942, Carr flew as a B-24 gunner until his plane was shot down Aug. 9, 1944, on a raid over Budapest on his 40th mission with the 464th Bomb Group of the 778th Bomb Squadron based in Italy.

Until his release April 26, 1945, Carr was a prisoner of war in Stalag Luft IV. He holds the ETO ribbon with several battle stars, the Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Purple Heart and shares in a Presidential Unit Citation.

A native of Paulding, Miss., Carr spent most of his life in the New Orleans area. He makes his home with his wife and seven children in Metairie. He is a graduate of Loyola University of the South, from which he earned his law degree and is a partner in the firm of Carr and Kollin.

A charter member of Post 6640 in Metairie, he has served as Inspector General and Judge Advocate General of the national organization, three times as Louisiana Department Judge Advocate, Department Junior Vice Commander in 1957 and Commander in 1959. Several times he has been a member of the National Security and Foreign Affairs Committee. In 1967 he was President of the Convention Corporation for the 68th National Convention in New Orleans.

**A** VETERAN of World War II, a naval combat in the Atlantic and the Pacific, Ray R. Soden, of Bensenville, Ill., is the V.F.W.'s new Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief. He was elected at the 72nd National Convention in Dallas.



Patrick E. Carr (L) was named Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief and Ray R. Soden was elected the new Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief at the 72nd V.F.W. National Convention. (E-4)

During World War II, Soden served on the *USS Claxton*, a destroyer that was part of the Little Beaver Squadron commanded by Adm. Arleigh A. Burke. He holds the ETO and Pacific theater ribbons with seven battle stars.

Soden was appointed chairman of the Illinois Veterans' Commission by Gov. Richard B. Ogilvie.

He has served as Commander of Post 2149, his Bensenville home Post, Commander of Illinois' Fifth District and in 1964-65 he was Illinois Department Commander. Prior to that he was Junior Vice Commander in 1962 and Senior Vice Commander in 1963 of the Department. He has been Chairman of the National Voice of Democracy Committee for three years and one as Vice Chairman. In 1965 he was President of the 66th National Convention Corporation for the 66th National Convention in Chicago.

Soden is a public relations representative for the Illinois Bell Telephone Co., a past member of the DuPage County Boy Scouts Council, secretary of the Oak Park Lions Club, past president of the Bensenville Community Chest, a member of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, Illinois Committee for Higher Education, Franklin Park Chamber of Commerce and several other civic organizations, including the Polish Legion of American Veterans, Telephone Pioneers of America (3rd vice president), Illinois State Press Association and Military Order of the Cootie. In 1961 he was awarded the Freedoms Foundation Americanism Medal.

He and Mrs. Soden have three children and three grandchildren.



# Homework

(Continued from page 31)

doubts that many young men would be attracted to a military career in the face of the denigration of the armed forces.

"The morale and respect for the serviceman is lower now than at any other time," he continued. "We have to have a new respect. Discipline as we used to know it has become a farce.

"I don't know when it will be restored but we will be a stronger and safer nation when it is. And a good place to start would be in the United States Congress.

"People are fed up with the Vietnam war—we got into it and wouldn't fight. We drew the pistol and wouldn't use it. I hope the U.S. has learned a lesson from Vietnam—stop acting like the banker and Santa Claus for the whole world. If we get into another war, let's go into it to win and never let our servicemen be pushed around by a fourth rate power. The Vietnam War has been a curse on this country.

"Senators filibuster against military legislation. I say let's reorder our priorities (to support the military) because if we don't all other priorities are meaningless.

"We can't ignore the lessons of history. Peace results from strength. War results from weakness. The quality of national defense has never been debatable and cannot be debated now.

"Russia and China have a third of the world's population, larger armies than ours. I have no objection to the President going to China—I'm for anything that can ease tension, alleviate the threat of war and extricate us from Vietnam. But I am not convinced that because the Chinese let a ping pong team in they are going to change their posture."

Talmadge added that in the face of the Soviets' "awesome military power any unilateral disarmament would be ludicrous in the extreme."

Referring again to the V.F.W., Talmadge concluded:

"I am glad to know there are Americans in great numbers who do more than pay lip service to the American way of life."

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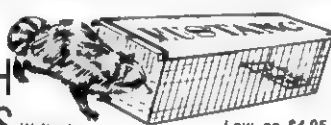
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# Heroes

(Continued from page 23)

come cheap. The men of the American forces in Vietnam have fought valiantly and successfully for the freedom of 18 million people half-way around the globe from Dallas. They have helped defend 200 million people of the free nations of Southeast Asia. American involvement in the Vietnam war is being ended in such a way that we can win a just peace for all the people of this region.

The task ahead is formidable. The men and women of the United States forces will continue to do a job of which all citizens can well be proud.

In World War II the mood of the country reflected the knowledge that the Republic was beset by trials as grave as any it had faced in its history. There was an unquestioned acceptance of the need to sacrifice to insure the survival of an ideal. We felt intuitively that our society offered man his best hope of a way of life by which he could fulfill himself in freedom.

Over the decades since then, however, the issues have been many and complex, and the rightness of our actions on the world scene has not been so easily demonstrated as in World War II. There is some disenchantment with the military today among certain groups, giving rise in turn to criticism not notable for its amiability. In point of fact, even a superficial look at recent history gives us reason to be proud of what our defense forces have accomplished over these years.

It is easily forgotten that United States strength and commitment were indispensable elements of the economical and political resurgence of Western Europe. The United States has responded to a series of challenges to freedom in the Far East, and the fact that freedom survives under the shadow of aggressive Communism is testimony to the effectiveness and perseverance of our armed forces.

Despite the determination of world powers to extend by force a political system which scorns freedom, the free world alliance remains a symbol of hope to nations where freedom has died.

Make no mistake about it. We

are not the aggressor in South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. Abandonment of our national objectives in Southeast Asia would be contrary to the principles for which our men fought.

The men who have been captured are still fighters for freedom. Their spirit, pride and service to country are the foundation of our democracy and the fulfillment of America's promise of freedom for mankind. We owe them a debt that can only be paid with reasonable self-interest policies in Southeast Asia.

Special recognition must go to the wives, children, and parents who bear the hardships of separation and anxiety. All are a credit to the unequaled and great traditions of our nation.

Let there be no doubt of the capacity and willingness of our people to serve their country. There are more than 2.5 million Americans serving today in the U.S. armed forces. There are nearly 28 million living American veterans. To put it another way, one in five adult Americans 18 years and older has worn the uniform of our nation's armed forces.

The rights enjoyed by all Americans are a legacy secured by these men and women. And in the forefront are members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, other distinguished veterans organizations, the armed forces of our nation and especially the men and women who have given their lives or personal freedom for their fellow men. History will record the same honor and praise for today's servicemen and women that has been accorded in the past.

It is with great emotion that I gratefully accept, on behalf of the Department of Defense, the V.F.W. 1971 Armed Forces Award presented in absentia to the prisoners of war and those missing in action.

This significant medal and citation will be placed in the office of the Secretary of Defense where it will remain until our men are safely home. It will then be placed in the Pentagon Hall of Heroes.

The patriotic support of your organization on the Prisoners of War and Missing in Action issue has, and will continue to do much to focus attention on this problem which concerns all of our people. Let us honor these men now as heroes—and continue to press and pray for their safe and prompt return.



# Both Sides

(Continued from page 29)

would like to think.

I am afraid that some people in the news business—a group which has been called an intellectual elite from Ivy League schools—are waging a kind of ideological warfare and are trying to sell their own ideas of what is good for the country under the guise of objective news reporting.

The role of the news media is not to express political opinions masquerading as news coverage. If these people want to express their own ideas, to which they have a perfect right, they should come out of the woodwork where they can be seen and run for political office. There are checks and balances within the political system from which the news media are immune and that is why individual opinion makers have no right to use the public airwaves as a platform for their own ideas.

Freedom of the press belongs to everyone and the American people have a right to balanced news reporting. You no longer have a free press when only one side of the coin is reported and when a handful of anonymous men can decide which side of the coin it will be.

I do not want to be an alarmist but I would like to talk for a minute about some of the facts that get lost in the constant carping about what is wrong with the system. Nothing is wrong with our system except a few people in it.

In a democracy, national defense suffers when there is inadequate public understanding and support. A little publicized Blue Ribbon Defense Panel appointed by the President in 1969 concluded that the convergence of a number of trends indicates a significant shifting of the strategic military balance against the United States and in favor of the Soviet Union.

These trends include the growing Soviet superiority in inter-continental ballistic missiles, the Soviet commitment of greater resources to offensive and defensive weapons, the possibility that our technological superiority will be lost to the Russians, the rapidly expanding Soviet naval capability, the convincing evidence that they are seeking a first-strike capability

and the mounting hostility of segments of the public toward the military and defense establishment without due recognition that sustained irresponsible criticism could weaken and undermine the only forces which provide security for this great country of ours.

Adm. Elmo Zumwalt, chief of naval operations, recently testified before the Committee on Armed Services, "Expanding Soviet sea-power represents a new dimension in world affairs. When considered in conjunction with the recent attainment of nuclear parity by the

(Continued on next page)

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Don't misunderstand me, I am not speaking of mysterious laws of nature that will sweep you to success without effort on your part. That sort of talk is rubbish. If this message is intended for you, you are the kind of man who knows that anything worthwhile must be earned. If the earlier development of your karma has revealed to you that there is no reward without effort, you may now be ready to learn and use the secret I have to impart.

Please don't misunderstand this statement. I am not a philanthropist. Frankly, I am going to charge you something for the secret I give you. Not a lot—but enough to convince me that you are a little above the fellows who merely "wish" for success.

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my summer home, my Cadillacs, my Winter-long vacations and my sense of independence—behind all the wealth of cash and deep inner satisfaction that I enjoy—there is one simple secret. It is this secret that I would like to impart to you. If you are satisfied with a humdrum life of service to another master, turn this page now—read no more. If you are interested in a fuller life, free from bosses, free from worries, free from fears, read further. This message may be meant for you.

by Victor B. Mason

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(Continued from last page)

Soviets, their new and expanding seapower will act increasingly to influence the options open to the United States in the pursuit of our foreign policy. As a result of their concentrated development and building efforts in the 1960's, the Soviets have emerged as a naval power with first class capabilities to counter the naval power of the United Nations."

While the news media have been harping daily on what is wrong with America in Vietnam, this dramatic shift in the balance of power between America and Russia has gone largely unreported. The fact that nearly a quarter of a century of clear U.S. strategic superiority has ended has gone by unnoticed. The public is apathetic because it is not aware of these facts.

Constant attacks on the defense establishment, such as the so-called news documentary, *The Selling of the Pentagon*, have given people a pervasive suspicion that they are being scared into huge new defense expenditures which are not really necessary. There seems to be a frightening willingness to discount or disbelieve the warnings of government leaders about our deteriorating defense capability. Yet, while the Soviet Union is spending twice as much on defense in proportion to its gross national product as the U.S., the hue and cry for more defense cuts goes on.

The evidence is piling up that this nation is losing the lead in technology which for half a century has meant translating know how into goods which have brought in millions of dollars from abroad. Too often we overlook the fact that technological advance is a bread and butter issue—and that's jobs. In the military field it is a matter of survival.

Our total spending in research and development as a percentage of the GNP has been steadily slipping since the mid-1960's. In most other industrial nations the trend is in the other direction.

Efficiency of workers, measured by gross national product per employee, is growing faster in most major nations than it is here—60% more rapidly in Western Europe, 70% in Russia, three times as fast in Japan.

We have made tremendous progress in the last decade toward correcting the built-in injustices with which every society must cope and I believe few other societies would have done as much as we have. It

is also this same system which protects the revolutionaries preaching its overthrow, and I might add, giving them unparalleled press coverage. I am simply pointing out these facts because too often they get lost in the hysterical chorus of what is wrong with America.

This brings me back to the responsibilities of the news media. *The New York Times'* coverage of the Pentagon Papers was a glaring example of irresponsible news reporting. The headline and lead editorial writers all went beyond the Pentagon Papers in conveying around the world that the U.S. alone was responsible for the escalation of the war in Vietnam through a secret consensus among the President and top government officials. None of these sensationalist charges of deceit were substantiated by the documents taken in the proper context.

Walt Rostow, President Johnson's National Security advisor, later said that there was indeed a consensus about the bombing in September, 1964—but it was not to bomb. He called the *Times'* coverage, the "shoddiest" piece of journalism and "as serious a misuse of the power of the press" as he had seen since entering public service in 1941.

Rostow, who was in a much better position to know the story of the Pentagon Papers, was buried in the back pages of the *Times*, while the charges of a self-appointed critic, an unknown professor, were given the full treatment of front page headlines and nightly news coverage.

What the stories didn't tell was that it was the Communists who started the war and forced the escalation. The stories also didn't say that through five successive Administrations the U.S. never used the power of which it was capable, never sought a decisive victory but used only the minimal force it considered necessary to keep South Vietnam out of Communist hands.

James Jackson Kilpatrick, himself a well-known journalist, expressed doubt over the accuracy of the reporting of the Laos invasion. He said, "A typical AP story described the action as a 'rout', based on a quote from a helicopter pilot." Kilpatrick goes on to say, "In our business the Associated Press is grandmother—what grandmother says is so. Yet the skepticism would not go away: Was this in fact a rout? Who were the unidentified



pilots? Did they exist?"

The leadership of the May Day demonstrations in Washington was avowedly pro-Communist Viet Cong and anti-American. Its self-proclaimed purpose was to shut down the United States government. Yet for weeks afterwards *The Washington Post* worried daily that the rights of the protestors had been abused because they were arrested en masse. There was little comment about the civil rights of the citizens of Washington who were trying to get to work while their cars were being overturned in order to block traffic in the streets.

The question of distorted news coverage came up for the first time in the House of Representatives in connection with the CBS documentary, *The Selling of the Pentagon*. The House Commerce Committee had received many allegations, and had sworn testimony from people directly involved, that deceptive editing and production techniques had been used in various segments of this commentary. The Commerce Committee has jurisdiction over deceptive broadcast practices and has conducted other investigations in the past, all the way back to the quiz show scandals.

The Committee report on *The Selling of the Pentagon* said that "never before had it encountered the insidious practice of intentional altering of the words and thoughts of anyone who appeared on a news documentary broadcast." Taped interviews were cut and sliced so that the speaker was made to appear to be saying things he had not in fact said, and sometimes even the opposite of what he had said.

In order to determine whether deliberate falsification had occurred, the Committee issued a subpoena to CBS president Frank Stanton to supply the original tapes. Stanton refused to comply with the subpoena and was consequently cited as in contempt of Congress by the committee by a vote of 25 to 13. The issue was not an encroachment on the First Amendment, as CBS contended, but simply whether or not statements had been deliberately altered. Congress has a duty to oversee these practices because the airwaves belong to the public.

The House then voted and refused for I believe the first time in its history to back a committee recommendation for a contempt of Congress citation. When asked what this meant, Harley Staggers,

the committee chairman who led the fight, said, "It proves CBS is stronger than Congress."

I do not know whether that is true, but I do feel strongly that rather than screaming "intimidation" everytime the news media are criticized, they should develop a professional ethic for objective news coverage and close their own credibility gap.

It is up to the American people to decide the directions in which they want to go and not up to a handful of behind-the-scene analysts who may be trying to sell their own ideas. If we are going to solve the problems that face us, what we need more than anything else is a fair presentation of both sides of an issue so that the American people themselves can be the judge.

### NATIONAL AIDES-DE-CAMP, RECRUITING CLASS

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The new appointments are as follows: Arthur O. Burch, Post 3788, San Diego, Calif.; Adam Little, Post 1114, Evansville, Ind.; Myer Fishman, Post 6805, Pemberton, N. J.; Rodrick V. Himber, Post 4876, Altus AFB, Okla.; Robert W. Leahy, Post 6012, San Antonio, Texas; Walter H. Rohde, Jr., Post 7059, Farmville, Va.; Donald F. Hochmeister, Thomas Gookin, Ross N. Bailey, Post 9723, Okinawa.



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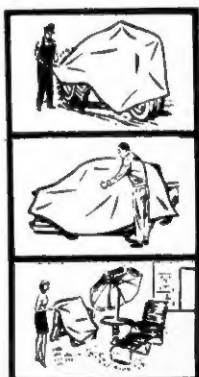
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# Majority

(Continued from page 25)

A healthy economy will not solve all our problems, but without it we lack an essential foundation of a healthy and progressive society. A poor economy is a threat to a prudent defense budget and therefore to our hopes for peace.

That is why I say that those of us who believe that the nation needs a strong foreign policy backed by a strong national defense should be the first as citizens without regard to party to demand the economic policies required to achieve full employment, rapid growth, and stable prices.

For, make no mistake about it, the demand to do more at home is great and growing. Comparing 1970 with 1961, defense expenditures declined 17% of the GNP while all other government spending—federal, state and local—rose 20% as a percentage of GNP.

Clearly, this development is in response to very deep-seated political forces, and the pressures to increase non-defense spending while we continue to grow. Only a rapidly rising output of goods and services will enable us to respond to domestic needs without dangerous slippage in vital expenditures of defense and foreign affairs. This is why President Nixon has moved to strengthen the economy.

Some people are telling us that the end of the Vietnam war will cause a miraculous transformation abroad allowing this country to devote the same kind of effort to domestic needs. My reading is that any solution of the Vietnam problem will have to be followed by a more rather than less intense concentration on problems of foreign policy.

It is an illusion to think that other nations will allow America a breathing spell, that they will so-to-speak "behave," while this country concentrates on problems at home.

In fact, the more this country tries to ignore foreign dangers and problems the more foreign affairs will intrude on our domestic efforts, and the less chance Americans will have to employ rational and common sense policies at home or abroad.

While our energies have been absorbed in Southeast Asia the overall strategic balance has moved markedly in favor of the Soviet Union. Moscow has continued, at great cost, a comprehensive, forward-moving program of strategic and conventional weapons procurement that is not slowing down.

In past Soviet probings, the strategic inferiority of Soviet power and a restricted naval capacity have set definite limits to the extent of the risks that Moscow was willing to run. Khrushchev's back down in the 1962 Cuban missile adventure is a dramatic example. When the Soviets failed to take over Indonesia by indirect tactics, they did not directly intervene but let Indonesia slip away.

Today with the strategic balance tilting in its favor and with its growing naval forces, a more confident Soviet Union can be expected to accept a more extensive and dangerous range of risks in advancing its great power interests. We can look for the Soviets to seek targets of opportunity in many areas of the world, using their new strength to assure them needed military options. Thus new elements of intimidation and blackmail will be introduced into international relations, enhancing the dangers in crisis encounters.

The motto of the Kremlin is now doubtless: "No more Cubas; no more Indonesias." In days to come, we, and not they, will be expected to back down and accept diplomatic defeat.

A foretaste of how Moscow hopes to operate in the future could be the Soviet Union's recent 15-year treaty with Cairo, hurriedly saddled on Egypt when Moscow saw signs that Mr. Sadat might be getting unruly.

The treaty itself reads like recent Russian imperial history in a nutshell. It appears to have been hastily thrown together with clauses borrowed from treaties with Finland, Czechoslovakia, Poland and even France.

By imposing this treaty on Egypt, Moscow has firmly established a base from which to extend Russian influence throughout the Middle East and Mediterranean area.

Moreover, we are now involved in discussions and negotiations on a bilateral basis on a variety of issues with both Moscow and Peking and a triangular relationship is clearly emerging. It is safe to say that as time goes on this

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# Colors

(Continued from page 28)

a fortune; there were men, women and children of all races and religions who were being caught up in an invasion of idiocy by a minority who demand, not just the obvious right to be heard, but the obvious wrong to maintain that the First Amendment belongs only to them.

Pathetic may be the word to describe the articulate voices of doom whose whisper is deafening and reaches through the waking moments to the ears of the young and the world outside which looks eagerly upon our demise.

I read once of a tree at the

Kuhura gardens in Tokyo whose original owner had planted in a small shallow dish some 400 years ago. Through 19 generations the roots have been trimmed, branches cut and today, after 400 years, it is only 20 inches high with a twisted top some 36 inches across. This little tree shouts a warning to all America—the mind and soul can be cut back just like the tree, with the same result—a dwarf.

It is about time some of the editorial giants, some of the audio prophets of doom and many of the political pretenders to the throne stopped using the First Amendment to cover sins of omission and rather started to write and talk about the greatness of this nation and the heritage we enjoy. The vocal minority on the campus, on the streets and in the military have had their say, but in spite of the cameras, publicity, the pictures, the shambles of the courtrooms, God and this nation are very much alive.

You and I, fathers and sons before us, were part of the unselfish contribution this nation has made to the defense of mankind. Even today, without a declaration of war, more of our young are contributing their lives, their energies to a survival. Do you hear of the hundreds of thousands who have returned from Vietnam to become part of this gathering. No—the cameras and the typewriters are posed at the few who in many cases act ashamed of the uniform and may have forgotten the lessons of history. They speak for something and they have a right to speak, but are we to believe that the majority of Americans do not have a right to be heard too?

All this nation has done has not been that correct. Our society has not always been honestly patient within and without our borders. The cry for change is not new and deserves to be heard. However, in spite of the faults, in spite of dark moments which cannot be erased from any history—no nation since recorded time has given more to the world asked nothing in return; nor created a society where man has been given or has the right to assert, through law, the freedom and independence earned.

We are a peoples, made up of the stock of every nation of the world and in less than 200 years, in spite of the faults, promises, dreams, but with the accomplishments—we have become the most powerful entity in the world.

Do we teach that to our children in school? Or are we too weary now that prayers have been abolished, patriotism is "camp" and the Pledge of Allegiance has been under attack and even banned in some quarters. We print "In God We Trust" on our currency and ban his name in classrooms. It's a strange and complex society we share with our young.

We conquer space and the moon in the name of peace and science, then without a blush or sigh, some deny necessary funds so that the heavens are open to the Soviets and the men who made this an American dream are reduced to the unemployment rolls.

We hear leading voices charge the President and the head of the FBI with misconduct and the invasion of privacy, at the same time when government files are ransacked and burned; when secret documents are illegally released. When law and order are enforced—when insurgents storm the Capitol—the ordinary citizen is overwhelmed by Congressional and private sentiments that call for "apology" and damnation for any and all who dare to speak against this incursion.

Our survival, inside or outside this room depends on remembering one of the great lessons of history. The fact that liberty is not just a word, it is in the heart. And when it dies, as some would have it die, no law of the land, no words on a parchment, no dream, no tears, no court can give it back.

Those who represent the V.F.W. are also individually representative of the basic ingredients which have permeated the life blood of this land. We may differ in religion, hold divergent political views, follow separate goals—we, however, share the bond, the heritage, the pride of citizenship.

My pride today has been in addressing you because there is so much to do and part is proving to the world, as we prove to ourselves, that what is wrong with us, we will change and what is right—we will shout loud and clear.

You and I have been part of the tragedy of war, the search for peace and now we face the survival of the planet. Nothing is or has been easy but we have survived the less than 200 years with all of the bad and the beautiful—and we have done it as Americans, in love with America.

And that is what this nation is all about.

V.F.W. MAGAZINE

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